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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk June 19, 2011 **EAST KENT EDITION** Issue no 456

Kent Vision for bishop, despite his Big Society concerns

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THE Archbishop of Canterbury's right-hand man has followed his boss' lead by attacking the Coalition's approach to the Big Society.

Last week Dr Rowan Williams – head of the Church of England – sparked a war of words with Prime Minister David Cameron when he described the policy as "stale" and "viewed with widespread suspicion", in an article written for New Statesman magazine.

Now the Bishop of Dover Trevor Willmott, who runs the Canterbury diocese in Dr Williams' absence, has waded into the argument by backing up his leader's comments.

He told KoS: "I think the Big Society debate has lost some of its energy and purpose and become too much about political football, which is sad.

"We need to do more than talk the talk at this stage; we need to be able to give good examples of how the Big Society can work because there is a danger that we will lose sight of the most disadvantaged.

"I happen to think there's good evidence that over the past few years the gap between rich and poor has grown wider.

"I agree with the Archbishop in the sense that community good is the responsibility of us all, and that no one sector can guarantee it. The Big Society cannot take on such important responsibilities as education and the NHS, but there are others where people do need to work together more."

This week Bishop Trevor was

Continued on page 2

BURLESQUE BEAUTY HITTING THE IVORIES

NOCTURNE: Hear a whole different side to Chopin when Chrys Columbine plays **See Stage & Arts**

AGRICULTURE

Rainfall averts farm disaster

FARMERS say the heavy rain at the start of the month staved off a catastrophe that was just days way.

But despite the recent downpours, crop yields are expected to be down in the county – meaning livestock farmers could be facing some tough decisions. **PAGE 9**

ENTERTAINMENT

Festival's hint of village fete

THE Lounge on the Farm music festival is rapidly turning into the county's own mini version of Glastonbury.

The three-day event, held on a farm outside Canterbury, features a top music line-up, but just as much attention is lavished on the food which is sourced locally. **PAGE 14**

SPORT

Club pros aim for Open shot

MORE than 50 of the county's top golfers will tomorrow begin their attempt to qualify for The Open Championship.

London Golf Club near Ash is hosting one of the Regional Qualifying events, with the top performers on course to reach the main event at Royal St George's. **PAGE 110**

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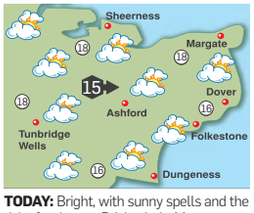

TODAY: Bright, with sunny spells and the risk of a shower. Brisk winds. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F). **TONIGHT:** Cloudy, with rain by dawn. Min temp 11-14C (52-57F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	01.58	6.3	14.15	6.5
Margate	03.00	4.6	15.10	4.6
St Mary's	07.49	5.2	20.09	5.4

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 19C	Min 13C
Tuesday	Max 19C	Min 10C
Wednesday	Max 19C	Min 10C
Thursday	Max 19C	Min 10C
Friday	Max 18C	Min 9C
Saturday	Max 18C	Min 10C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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POLITICS

Ed will make a great Prime Minister, supporters insist

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

LABOUR supporters in Kent have spoken out to back party leader Ed Miliband amid criticism of his first nine months in office.

The former Energy Secretary has been accused of providing weak opposition to the Coalition since his appointment last September, and of coming up with no viable solutions to tackle the country's economic woes.

But party members in Kent believe Mr Miliband may have now turned a corner following a speech on Monday in which he set out his vision of Labour's future policies.

He admitted that at the last election Labour was seen as "the party of those ripping off our society" and promised a renewed focus on tackling boardroom excesses and abuses of the benefits system.

Kent Labour spokesman Paul Clark, the former MP for Gillingham and Rainham, said: "Of course we didn't get everything right in government, and that's why we needed to step back, take a look at our party structure and policies, listen to people and formulate new plans.

"It was always going to be difficult for him after we suffered such a massive defeat at the General Election, because nobody really listens to what you have to say at first.

"But it's important to take your time in developing new policies because you have to get them right. I think the constant U-turns the new Government is doing on a range of reforms is evidence of that."

Former Dover and Deal MP Gwyn Prosser is a keen supporter of Ed Miliband and his brother David, and said Ed still had his backing as leader.

He said: "The grassroots Labour party members will always be impatient and demanding faster progress, but you need to bide your time. I think he's a great leader of the Opposition and, when the time comes, he'll make a great Prime Minister."

There are no Labour MPs in Kent, and until last month's local elections every district and borough council – as well as KCC and Medway Council – was run by the Conservatives.

But the party made several gains at the elections, winning Gravesham council and running the Tories so close in Thanet that a 'cross-party arrangement' had to be formed.

New Gravesham council leader Cllr John Burden said: "On a local level we are very optimistic about the future for Labour.

"As far as the national picture goes, I think it was unreasonable for people to expect Ed to come up with a raft of radical new policies less than one year after Labour lost control of a government it had controlled for the previous 13 years.

"But we are united and everyone is supporting what Ed is doing. We feel very confident about the future."

Picture: PAUL JERREAT

KEEN FOLLOWING: Labour leader Ed Miliband

BIG SOCIETY

Forum is taking action to put the citizens back in control

Continued from front page

announced as one of three 'champions' who have agreed to support the new Vision for Kent 2011-2021 strategy, alongside Kent Economic Board chairman Geoff Miles, and the former Labour MP for Chatham and Aylesford, Jonathan Shaw.

Drawn up by the Kent Forum of local councils, the strategy sets out the three key ambitions it hopes to achieve over the next 10 years – namely growing the Kent economy, tackling disadvantage, and putting the citizen in control.

Actions listed in the plan include improving Kent's roads, rail and broadband to create better infrastructure for business; encouraging young people to be in education, training or work; and involving people more in making decisions on public services and spending.

OPPOSITE SIDES: Bishop Trevor Willmott and Jonathan Shaw

Kent Forum chairman and Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "There are some serious challenges ahead but we are determined to tackle them in a cohesive, dynamic way to bring real lasting benefits.

"We're talking to employers about how we can work with them to train our workforce, grow our businesses and strengthen our economy.

"We want to break down those barriers that create a divide in the quality of life of our residents by reducing dependency on benefits, identifying those who need help early on, and identifying where services can be better integrated to help individuals.

"And we're removing red tape and putting our citizens back in control by giving them more power over things like planning, spending on services that affect them, and the future of their communities."

A public consultation on the Vision for Kent strategy opens tomorrow and will run until August 22.

Visit www.kentforum.org.uk to have your say on the plans.

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CRIME

Thousands of children spend night locked up in police cells

By Marijke Cox
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THOUSANDS of children aged under 16-years-old are being held overnight in police cells.

Figures obtained by the Howard League for Penal Reform revealed that in 2008 and 2009 – the most recent statistics available – 2,764 youths were detained, an average of almost four a night over the two-year period.

The charity, which provides a dedicated legal service for young people in custody, said a police cell was not an appropriate place for children and called for the practice to be stopped.

Director of the organisation, Frances Crook, said: "Most children detained are not serious offenders. It appears children are being held in police cells for child protection reasons, for example when a child is found in the street drunk.

"This could be an increasing response to children in need as local authorities face cuts to children's services.

"We're dealing with children who are in need. However keeping children overnight in a busy, chaotic police station does not protect them."

But Kent Police defended the figures, stating that detention of both children and adults in custody was reviewed regularly to ensure they were being held in accordance with the law and not for any longer than required for police investigations.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams, said: "As with adults, detention of children in custody is authorised for a number of reasons, including to further a criminal investigation, to uncover the identity of any suspects, or because the disappearance of that person would hinder any prosecution.

BEHIND BARS: While some children may be offenders, others are held for protection reasons

"The rules for the detention of suspects are set down in law and on every occasion must be authorised by a custody officer."

Chairman of Kent Police Federation, Ian Pointon, said he supported action taken by Kent Police if it ensured the protection of the public.

"It all depends on what they are being held for; if they have committed a crime a decision will be made whether to keep them overnight or not," he said. "I'm in support of what the force says. What I would expect is that people wouldn't be arrested without proper cause.

"If a young person can be arrested the following day then that's something that is probably looked at as a possibility. But if a serious crime has been committed officers can't just wait for a more sociable time to carry out the arrest as this could obstruct the investigation.

"Officers have got to make a decision based on the facts they have at the time, in quick time, to know whether someone should be arrested.

"People who commit serious crimes have to be incarcerated to protect the public."

Mr Pointon added: "When people hear the word children they think of eight or nine-year-olds, but that's not usually the case."

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act states children in custody must be given a higher level of care, but Anita Dockley, research director for the Howard League, said the referral process from police custody to local authority accommodation, such as children's homes or centres, is the vital safeguard for children who are charged but not bailed.

"Police admitted to us that requests by them for local authority accommodation are often not met," she said. "This is contrary to international law, which states that no child should be deprived of his or her liberty unless it is a measure of last resort."

Of the 22 forces out the UK's 43 that responded to the charity's Freedom of Information request, Kent had the fourth highest number of overnight child detentions, with Greater Manchester topping the list with 16,957; West Midlands with 12,565; and Merseyside – of which just 2009 figures were available – with 5,142.

If a child is arrested at 11pm and bailed two hours later at 1am, for example, this is recorded as an overnight stay.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PM's promise to family

DAVID Cameron has said the Government will look at what help it can give to the Chatham family of a woman who was beheaded in India.

He made the promise during Prime Minister's Question Time to Gillingham and Rainham Tory MP Rehman Chishti.

Mother-of-three Surjit Kaur, 67, from Chatham, was killed on a visit to the Punjab this year. Two men are awaiting trial in India on kidnap and murder charges.

Walking against cuts

TRADE unionists have begun a month-long protest against government spending cuts.

Over the next four weeks the members of Kent Save Our Services will walk from Dartford to Dover to highlight the impact of cuts on communities.

About 20 people joined the first walk on Wednesday from the Orchard Theatre in Dartford. Protestors will next march from Medway to Maidstone, from Ashford to Canterbury, and finally from Thanet to Dover on July 9.

Cash for communities

COMMUNITY groups are being offered the chance to get funding for their projects.

Until March 31, 2012, there will be around £1.74 million available across the county from Kent County Council Local Member Grants for projects that show lasting community benefit.

Funding is divided between the 12 districts in Kent and there are three types of funding: member community grant; local schemes grant, and small community capital projects .

See www.kent.gov.uk/communityengagement.

TRANSPORT

Government 'out of touch' with commuters over rail price hike

SHADOW transport secretary Maria Eagle has urged a rethink of crippling rail fare increases planned for Kent's commuters.

From January, train operators across the UK will be allowed to increase fares by three per cent above inflation, every year until 2015.

This means a total price hike of almost £1,500 for commuters using high-speed services in some parts of Kent.

Ms Eagle condemned the plans during a visit to Chatham on Wednesday.

She said: "The Tory-led Government is totally out of touch with the cost-of-living crisis facing Kent commuters, and fails to understand how these eye-watering rail fare rises will add to the burden on families.

"For many the cost of getting to work is now the biggest single item in their budget – bigger than mortgage payments.

"These rises are the consequence of the decision to cut too far and too fast, meaning commuters are having to pay more to plug the hole in the transport budget.

CRITICAL: Maria Eagle MP

"With train fares set to rise four times faster than wages in the next year, ministers should give commuters a break."

The Government announced in October's Comprehensive Spending Review that regulated rail fares would increase by three per cent above the Retail Price Index rate of inflation for three years from 2012 – up from the current one per cent above inflation. However, Kent commuters have already been hit with one increase of three per cent above inflation due to a special arrangement between the Government and rail operator Southeastern.

Cllr Gordon Cowan – leader of the Labour group on Dover council – said people commuting via high-speed trains from Dover will see the cost of their season ticket rise by £1,486 between 2011 and 2015.

He added: "People here have been looking to the high-speed link as a way of increasing their access to jobs, and others have looked to it as a means of bringing in businesses. These price rises are a direct attack on the revival of our local economy."

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POLITICS

Meet your 'cost-efficient' MPs

By Mathew Beech
mathew.beech@archant.co.uk

FIVE Kent Tory politicians have been named among the top 50 most cost-efficient MPs

Mark Reckless, the MP for Rochester and Strood, was the highest ranked Kent MP, coming 12th according to the Commons Performance Cockpit.

The website takes the wages and expenses of each MP and compares them to the number of votes they have made in the House of Commons.

Mr Reckless cost voters an equivalent of £281 per Commons vote.

He said: "I am pleased to have been recognised for providing good value, although I believe the best way for providing good value for my constituents is by standing up for what I believe in."

Rehman Chishti, MP for Gillingham and Rainham and Tracey Crouch, MP for Chatham and Aylesford, came 21st and 30th respectively, while Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke and Damian Collins, MP for Folkestone and Hythe, also featured in the top 50.

At the other end of the scale, the only Kent MP who appeared in the bottom 50 was Thanet North's Roger Gale.

He said: "My voting record is low in comparison to a lot of other MPs because I am the senior member of the Speaker's panel of chairmen.

"We work on number of bills, including the finance bill and we are currently working on the Armed Forces bill, but once you have chaired a bill, you can't vote on it.

"This includes all the amendments so you can easily miss 20, 30 or 40 votes."

Mr Gale's said his costs are high because he uses his Broadstairs office, rather than one in Westminster, incurring bills and expenses which are paid for in London.

Mr Gale added: "The team I have do an outstanding job. We process more than 150 communications everyday and deal with our post within 24 hours.

"We offer a better service by being in the constituency and I do not have a backlog.

"I am not concerned about some website, because it is meaningless, but it is things like this that help MPs to get a bad name."

Ian Kent, director of Key Business Insight, the company behind the website, said it had taken publicly available data and made it easier to understand.

He said: "It gives you a chance to look at the broader picture and shows the results MPs achieve for the money they are being paid.

"We are limited by the available data and you can remove speakers from the lists, but some of the good work politicians are doing does not produce data and this is data driven.

"We do what we can to avoid making it misleading and we are happy for people to tell us more information or if we have anything wrong."

TOP 50: (l-r) Mark Reckless (12th), Rehman Chishti (21st) Tracy Crouch (30th) **BOTTOM 50:** Roger Gale

AFGHANISTAN

Funeral for 'one in a million' marine killed in Helmand explosion

THE funeral of a Royal Marine killed in a bomb blast in Afghanistan was held on Thursday.

Lt Ollie Augustin, 23, from Dartford, was killed alongside Marine Sam Alexander, 28, of Plymouth, on May 27.

The two men, both of 42 Commando, were killed in the Loy Mandeh area of the Nad-e Ali District of Helmand Province as they searched a compound.

He was leading a patrol when the device exploded.

Lt Augustin's funeral service was held at St Martin of Tours Church in Eynsford.

The former Dartford Grammar School pupil was described by colleagues as a "one in a million friend".

Defence Secretary Dr Liam Fox said Lt Augustin was a "natural leader who led from the front and set a fine example for those that he worked with".

His parents Jane and Sean said: "His warmth and humour lit a room and infected all around him. He dealt with people in a thoughtful and compassionate way."

POLICE

Kent Police to merge IT unit as it battles to save £50m from budget

KENT Police is to merge its IT department with those of three other forces as part of ongoing attempts to save £50 million.

The new unit will be known as East Coast IT Services and will comprise about 375 members of staff providing computer support for more than 18,000 employees in Kent, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk.

Savings of £3 million-£4m are expected to be made over four years, in addition to savings of nearly £6m already made in a collaboration between Kent and Essex's IT departments.

IT director Andy Barker said: "There are huge benefits to be had in joining up IT provision and services.

"Behind the scenes IT has always had a vital role in operational policing, giving officers and staff the tools to do the job efficiently and effectively.

"Aligning IT functions across forces operating different processes and procedures is not a quick job. But, longer-term, the benefits are huge, both in terms of making financial savings to protect the frontline and in making our technology do more to support the demands of modern policing."

Kent Police is currently battling to save £50m over the next four years due to a 20 per cent cut in Home Office funding, which is expected to lead to a loss of about 500 officers and 1,000 support staff.

The force is undergoing a major restructure as a result, which will see a reduction in the number of policing areas from six to three.

Meanwhile, Medway Council has appointed Cllr Craig Mackinley to sit on the Kent Police Authority, and reappointed Cllr Paul Godwin who is the current chairman of the watchdog's professional standards committee.

KPA chairwoman Ann Barnes said: "I'm delighted to welcome Paul back to the authority. He has already given four years of valued service and brings a great deal of experience with him."

IT'S FETE: TV star Paul O'Grady

ENTERTAINMENT

O'Grady guest at village fete

TOP TV celebrity and Aldington resident Paul O'Grady is opening the village's school fete on Sunday, July 3, at noon.

The Pipes and Drums P1 of 1RGR Ghurkas will kick-off proceedings and the Swingtime Sweethearts – Britain's Got Talent semi-finalists – will entertain the crowds.

Other entertainment includes a display by 1066 Falconry, singing and dancing displays by the children, train rides, giant bouncy slide, barbecue and bar, coconut shy, face painting, tombolas, prize draw, and milking the cow.

Entry is £1 for adults while children go free.

ARMED FORCES DAY

Hell of a good bash for veterans

THE Hellfire Corner Association is holding its Armed Forces Day celebrations next weekend, June 25-26.

The Band of the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment will be performing at Dover's Pencester Garden's bandstand from 10.15am on Saturday after the opening by Dover mayor Cllr Ronnie Philpott.

Other acts performing at the free event include Swingtime Sweethearts, Clover Sisters, Polka Dots, and Dickie Lines.

Veteran badges will be awarded by Tory MP Charlie Elphicke, and applications from veterans for badges can be made on the Saturday. Discharge books and a form of ID will be needed.

An iPad will be raffled at the event, with tickets £1 each.

More information is available at www.hellfirecorner.com.

CRIME

Murder trio locked up again following retrial

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

THREE thugs have been sentenced to life after a retrial found them guilty of murder.

Kelvin Horlock, 33, from Strood; Bill Saunders, 30, from Gravesend; and Trevor Lees, 38, from Northfleet; were convicted in 2009 of killing vulnerable alcoholic Ted Shaxted, but a retrial was ordered following an appeal last year.

However, following a six-week trial and five days of deliberation by the jury at Maidstone Crown Court, all three men were found guilty once more, last Tuesday.

The court heard how Mr Shaxted had spent the afternoon before the attack with Horlock's aunt, who lived with Horlock's mother. While drunk he stole the latter's car keys and drove away with her dog, only to crash vehicle shortly after.

He was arrested and bailed to appear at a later date, but Horlock and his friends took the law into their own hands.

The next day, December 2, 2007, they burst into Mr Shaxted's flat in Northfleet and kicked and punched him all over his body. Ambulance staff were only notified later that evening when a neighbour found him slumped on his sofa, covered in blood.

Det Insp Gavin Moss said: "This murder showed a high level of brutality. It has been a painstaking investigation to bring this case to court and I am delighted with the verdict.

"The investigation process itself was enhanced enormously by the support of the community, and I would like to express my gratitude to them."

Judge Jeremy Carey sentenced all three men to life in prison and recommended that Horlock serve 15 years, Saunders 12 years and Lees 12-and-a-half years, before being eligible for parole. All three men had denied murder.

Mr Shaxted's family said in a statement: "We are very happy with the verdict. It has been a hard journey for us but we feel Ted has now received justice."

A fourth man – Gravesend resident Martin Service, 35 – also stood trial but the jury was unable to reach a verdict.

He now faces a third hearing.

GUILTY: From left, Kevin Horlock, Bill Saunders and Trevor Lees, murdered Ted Shaxted, top, in a brutal attack in December, 2007

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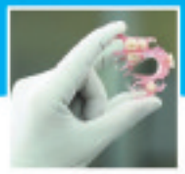

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EUROKENT PUBLIC EXHIBITION ROADSHOW

East Kent Opportunities is bringing forward a masterplan for a new community at Eurokent and we would like to hear your views. Come along to one of our exhibitions to have your say on these new proposals for Thanet.

The proposed masterplan is hoped to be an exemplary sustainable development that will set new standards for green living in Kent. The proposals would deliver around 550 new homes, with new community facilities, small local shops and offices and new public space. Proposals would also provide improvements to the Jackey Bakers Sports Ground, public transport and connections with Westwood Cross and the communities of Northwood and Newington.

Come along to one of the following events and tell us what you think:

1. **Broadstairs,** Tuesday 21 June 2pm-8pm
Holy Trinity Church Hall
Church Road, off Nelson Place, CT10 1HQ

2. **Margate,** Thursday 23 June 2pm-8pm
Margate Media Centre
11-13 King Street, CT9 1DA

3. **Ramsgate,** Friday 24 June 9am-5pm
Street Market
Ramsgate Town Centre, CT11 9AG

4. **Westwood Cross,** Saturday 25 June 10am-2pm
Main entrance
Westwood Cross Shopping Centre
Margate Road, CT10 2BF

Have your say
You can also have your say by visiting our consultation website **eurokent.org** or by contacting us directly.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Ian Fleming's wartime film is a boost to county's economy

ACTION thriller movie Age of Heroes, which was released on DVD this week, generated £42,800 of inward investment for Kent as a result of filming in the county.

The film stars Sean Bean, Danny Dyer and James D'Arcy and is based on the real-life events of Ian Fleming's 30 Commando during World War Two.

The unit was one of the most secretive and respected of the Special Forces regiments in the British Armed Forces.

James Bond author Fleming lived in St Margaret's Bay, and Kent features in several scenes in the 007 novels.

Age of Heroes captures the mentally and physically gruelling training endured by the troops before they are assigned to a dangerous mission behind enemy lines in occupied Norway, which doesn't go according to plan.

Kent County Council's Kent Film Office supported the project with an investment of £20,000 from the Kent Development Fund.

And officials say that in return, inward investment of £42,800 has already been generated from the cash, such as using a local pub as a location base and using local crew and extras.

Filming took place at the World War Two bunker in Gravesham, the Connaught Barracks in Dover which was used as a camp, and some driving shots were filmed around Pluckley.

The crew approached the Kent Film Office in February last year and filming took place in April and May, 2010.

Kent County Council cabinet member for customer and communities Cllr Mike Hill, said: "Kent has fantastic filming locations and once again, we're the location of choice. We know that supporting film in the county brings a real boost to our economy."

STAR QUALITY: Sean Bean took part in the filming at venues across the county

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News

TRANSPORT

Bus cuts are the right thing to do, says education chief

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TRAVEL: Government cuts have been blamed for the proposals

COUNTY Hall's education chief has called the scrapping of free grammar and church school travel as the "right way forward", despite overwhelming opposition.

Cabinet member for education, learning and skills at Kent County Council, Cllr Sarah Hohler, said the authority was "not able" to continue subsidising the bus service due to pressure on the public purse.

KCC has a legal duty to provide free home-to-school travel – costing £14 million a year and worth more than £450 per child – when the nearest appropriate school is more than three miles from a pupil's home.

But in many cases parents opt for grammar or church schools that are not their nearest and KCC, despite not being legally obliged, has until now paid for the travel.

Plans were put forward to stop the provision for pupils who start at a grammar or faith school from September 1, 2012, if it is not their nearest secondary school, although extra help would continue for low income families.

Despite overwhelming opposition in the consultation, which received more than 1,200 responses – around 90 per cent of which were against – cabinet members are expected to vote in favour on June 20.

Cllr Hohler said her view was that it was the right way forward despite opposition.

"I recognise that some have said they would like us to continue to keep providing a free service to all, but we are simply not able to do this," she said.

"KCC has produced a budget to deliver £160m of savings over the next two years. Part of this will include a reduction in the school transport budget."

Instead, the councillor recommends the Kent Freedom Pass, which provides bus travel for 11-16-year-olds for a one-off annual fee of £100. This week, KCC announced that young carers aged 11-16 will will get a pass for free.

■ **See p27 for one pupil's protest to education secretary Michael Gove.**

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AGRICULTURE

Late rain saves farmers from catastrophe

By Mathew Beech
mathew.beech@archant.co.uk

THE recent rainfall has been welcomed by Kent farmers who were just days away from an agricultural catastrophe.

The rain at the start of June, which saw more than two inches fall in about 10 days, has been vital to farmers who have been severely hit by the dry spring.

Cereal crops have been smaller and weaker than expected, while fodder for livestock has struggled to grow in the parched soil.

The heavy rain has provided some relief to the farmers, although they are still expecting to see their yields for the year fall and costs increase.

Kevin Attwood, who owns Down Court Farm in Doddington, near Sittingbourne, believes the rain was just in time.

The 51-year-old arable farmer said: "There will still be a loss as the crops are thinner and weaker than they need to be, but it has stopped things getting worse as we were going downhill fast.

QUENCHED THIRST: The June rains saved some crops, but farmers are still hoping the dry spell does not return

"For spring crops, such as barley and wheat, it came at a critical time because due to the dry weather they have no depth of rooting and this gave them a boost.

"The rain was our saving grace and it came at the last critical moment.

"It stopped things worsening, which would have been a catastrophe."

Livestock farmers have also been suffering as they are struggling to grow enough fodder for their animals.

In the 'agricultural drought' they have been unable to grow enough maize or grass, which is used to feed the animals through autumn and winter.

If the dry spell returns, the second opportunity for fodder to be grown and harvested could be missed, forcing farmers to buy in a nutrient-rich, cereal-based feed.

With drought pressures already on cereal crops, it is expected the costs of the animal feed could go up, leaving farmers with some tough decisions over the scale of their operations later in the year.

Mr Attwood said: "It is up to them to work out how much they can afford through the winter. They will have some difficult decisions to make, such as how many breeding animals they will keep into the spring."

The situation for Kent farmers is brighter than for neighbouring farmers, both in the UK and across the Channel.

The rainfall that has proved to be a saving grace here has not fallen with the same intensity or at the same point in the crop cycle to provide the benefits in East Anglia or in France.

Mr Attwood added: "The cereal crops there are likely to be down by 30 per cent, while here in Kent it is likely to be much nearer 10 per cent. That rain was significant and has helped us tremendously."

The Met Office have said there are no prolonged dry periods forecast for the next month, with some unsettled weather bringing showers and the odd prolonged period of rainfall in the South East.

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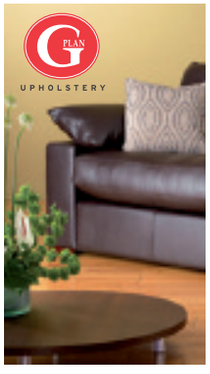

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STREET CLEANING

Shopkeepers sweep as council cuts deep clean

By Mathew Beech
mathew.beech@archant.co.uk

SHOPKEEPERS and residents have been encouraged to clean the streets because it is too expensive for the council to do the work.

The Faversham Town Marketing Group raised the issue of the dirty streets with the town council.

Cllr Mike Gates said: "The issue of cleaning the streets cropped up.

"As a town council we work with Swale Borough Council and with the financial cuts that are being made, we do as much as we can.

"Deep cleaning of the whole Faversham town area would cost £10,000, which is very expensive."

The deep clean of the streets would remove ground-in dirt and chewing gum stuck to the floor, but due to limited town council resources, they would not be able to afford the thousands of pounds required to clean the whole of the town centre.

To reduce the costs of the clean up but to still give the town a spruce up, councillors have encouraging shopkeepers to clean the streets themselves.

Cllr Gates added: "We may target certain areas but we need to keep the pressure on Swale Borough Council.

"Everyone can do their bit, and we have been for some time. We have done some litter clean ups with youth groups and the idea is to try and make people feel positive about the town.

"On the clean-up days we have people out with brooms and plastic sacks picking up the litter, which sends out the right signals, encouraging people to clean the streets is the next step."

The aim of the campaign is to boost public morale about the town and to ensure it is looking at its best, despite the lack of a deep clean.

Teresa Heselden, who owns Heselden Hats and General Miscellany, in West Street, is one of the shopkeepers who already cleans the street outside of her shop.

DO IT YOURSELF: The public are being asked to clean their own streets

She said: "When I opened up, I had everything totally painted and completely cleaned, as I have a lamppost outside, I wash that everyday too. It is about keeping the street nice and it can snowball from there.

"At this end of West Street, you can see all the shop owners outside in the morning with their brooms and it is quite sociable. It generates a sense of community and it's about taking pride in where you live and work."

Cllr Gates added: "It's a bit of nostalgia, having the greengrocers or the butchers in their aprons going out and sweeping up. We are all trying to do that, tapping into what is now called the Big Society."

CRIME

Young inmates are left to 'sleep through their sentences'

PRISONERS at a Youth Offenders' Institute are "sleeping" through their sentences according to a new report.

Inmates at HMYOI Rochester were found to be spending too long in their cells, some being locked up for up to 23 hours a day.

Nick Hardwick, chief inspector of prisons, visited the site, which holds 631 men aged 18 to 21, in February.

He said: "My overwhelming impression was of young men sleeping their way through their sentences."

When not locked away, the men were often faced with mundane activities, such as lining punnets with bubble wrap.

Violence was also an issue, increasing from 16 incidents per month in 2009 to 20 per month in 2010, while the high use of force by staff, with 320 incidents last year, is also criticised.

However, the report does show that most of the prisoners feel safe and have a good relationship with the staff, while drug use is low. The resettlement programme was praised, too.

Mr Hardwick said: "Rochester needs to strike a better balance between the demands of security and the requirements of a positive regime."

Michael Spurr, chief executive officer of the National Offender Management Service, said: "The governor and staff are working to minimise violence and use of force, and improve purposeful activity and services."

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BIG STAGE: Orpington Rock Choir feature in the ITV1 documentary series

ENTERTAINMENT

TV date for choristers of rock

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

WEMBLEY Arena was the grand stage for more than 500 Kent singers due to star in a new ITV1 documentary series.

Members of the Rock Choir organisation from across the county belted out a number of tunes at the world famous concert venue as part of the Choir that Rocks programme, which started on Thursday.

They were joined by more than 6,000 singers from other parts of the UK, all of whom have helped the group expand into one of the most popular leisure pursuits in the country.

East Kent branch leader Jamie Speed explained the appeal of the Rock Choir phenomenon.

He said: "We're all about singing and helping people to have a good time. We get people from all walks of life coming together, some of whom are suffering from a bit of misery in their lives and want to be helped through the hard times. It's hard not to be inspired when you take part in something like this.

"We get some amazing singers and others who don't consider themselves to be that good, but when they come together and create that one great sound it doesn't matter."

Rock Choir was founded in 2005 by Surrey-based singer/musician Caroline Redman Lusher, and now consists of 132 separate choirs and more than 8,000 members across the UK. They sing pop and gospel numbers.

Kent has groups in Ashford, Bexleyheath, Bromley, Canterbury, Deal, Folkestone, Gravesend, Kings Hill, Maidstone, Orpington, Rochester and Sevenoaks.

The ITV1 documentary is a three-part series that follows Caroline and her team in the build-up to the mass performance at Wembley.

■ **Free Rock Choir taster sessions will take place in Canterbury and Folkestone this month. Visit www.rockchoir.com or call 01252 714276 to book a place.**

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ENTERTAINMENT

Part festival, part fete... here comes Lounge on the Farm

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IT is said that if all those who claim to have attended the very first ever Glastonbury Festival back in 1971 had actually been at the Somerset site, the crowd would have been about 100,000.

In truth, of course, the actual figures were close to 1,500.

But then being in on something new and exciting, something which would grow into a colossus, is always tempting for the serial fibber.

Yet right on our doorstep this summer, there is an event entering just its sixth year, which has all the hallmarks of a Glastonbury in the making.

It may never quite grow so huge – and there's a compelling argument to suggest small is, indeed, beautiful, but Canterbury's Lounge on the Farm has found a niche in the ever expanding, many would say over-crowded, festival scene. And it is doing so by playing a card which has the word 'Kentish' scrawled in 10ft high letters.

A blend of ages, musical styles, and almost an equal emphasis on food and drink – all of which is locally sourced or

produced – has created an intriguing melting pot of part-festival, part-village fete which hints at a very rosy future.

Shepherd Neame brews a special Festival Ale for the occasion, and the line-up of food and drink outlets reads more like an upmarket food hall, with the likes of the Goods Shed, Griggs of Hythe, Dargate Dairy, Godmersham Game, and Ripple Farm Organics, peddling their wares at the event.

What's more, the comparisons with Glastonbury come fast and furious. It too takes place on a working farm, its first event six years ago drew 1,200 people, it doesn't take its lead from corporate requirements, but a desire to put on an artistic and enjoyable event, it attracts a range of ages and demographics and there's even the fact the man who launched it wants his daughter to take over when he retires.

"You'll see six-year-old children and 60-year-olds running around and enjoying themselves," explains Sean Baker, 41, the DJ-turned event founder and co-organiser. "It's the very essence of what we're about.

"We wanted to involve the community – so it felt like their festival. Then when my business partner, Victoria Hazell, came on board and she had an angle on the food – using local produce.

"When we started no-one else was doing that. Within two years, others were following our lead – but we had a head-start on them. And it seems to work.

"It's a very Kentish festival. But that's the thing about Canterbury. When people visit they feel welcomed, you don't get that at many festivals. You don't get the local community taking part. It's like a large village fete."

In fact, over half the tickets have been snapped up by Kent folk so far, but with

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others coming from Scotland and Wales its reputation is definitely growing.

As we talk Mr Baker is sitting in The Farmhouse, the bricks and mortar venue in Dover Street, Canterbury, which he runs. It takes the essence of the festival – staged a 15-minute walk away in Merton Farm – and plonks it in the city centre. Even on a chilly and rainy Friday afternoon, the place is busy. The restaurant insists on food from a 20-mile radius, the bands performing are, more often than not, local, and there is an easy-going atmosphere.

He's taken Lounge from humble beginnings to what will be its biggest ever event next month. After splashing out on some big names as headliners – Ellie Goulding, Echo and The Bunnymen and The Streets head a strong supporting cast – they are confident of this year hitting the magic 10,000 crowd mark. A figure, significantly, which should, finally, see it turn a profit.

GROWING: From humble beginnings with just over 1,000 in the crowd, Lounge on the Farm this year expect to sell 10,000 tickets to the popular local festival. Left, rising stars The Vaccines are playing this year

"We made money on the first," explains Mr Baker, "but not since. You need to grow to that size to succeed. Each year we have an extra 1,000-1,500 but you need to get to 10,000 to make the festival work financially. You need the bigger acts to pull in the people."

This year saw a significant move behind the scenes. To help ease the financial burden, organisers teamed up with investors – London-based industry professionals – and it has proved not only a successful formula but one which has taken an awful lot of the strain off the shoulders of the two organisers.

"Putting this together does take over our lives. It is very stressful, aalthough, I have to say, I like it in a perverse way."

A team of six in Canterbury, and 10 in London now prepare the event, which has become something of a unique tool in the local tourism industry's arsenal.

It has won praise from far and wide, with a London PR firm whipping up glowing reviews in the past from the broadsheets and music press.

It's certainly come a very long way from its humble beginnings.

"Back in 1997, I ran a club night with my DJ partner Rob Cooper at Studio 41 in Canterbury, called Lounge Originals. We did that for five years," explains Mr Baker. "I used to help with the St Augustine's Street Festival too. I bumped into the farmer at Merton Farm and he said come and talk about doing something there.

"Truthfully, I thought after that first year 'we could do this'. In the back of my mind I had a plan to get it to three years. I knew I had to get it to a certain level recognised around the country.

"I see this going on for many years. We've created something special and I think we can get it better and better."

■ Lounge on the Farm takes place at Merton Farm, Canterbury, from July 8-10. To buy tickets and for full line-up details see the website www.loungeonthethefarm.co.uk.

■ See yourcanterbury.co.uk for all the latest news and sports.

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COMPETITION

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THIS year's Kent County Show is on July 15-17 at the Kent Showground, and we have 10 family tickets to be won that will be valid for any one day of the show.

And one of those lucky winners will have their family ticket upgraded to a VIP pass giving access to the 'members' only' section of the show in Detling, Maidstone, plus privilege parking, press room meet and greet, two-course lunch in the members' only dining area, and afternoon tea.

One of the main ring attractions this year will be Royal Artillery Motorcycle Display Team, known as the 'Flying Gunners'. Once a rider makes the team he is trained in numerous motorcycle skills, from precision riding to motor cross jumping.

Another main ring attraction will be The Devil's Horsemen, with horses highly trained in various stunts. They offer a variety of shows, and their main performances are Cossack and Wild West.

This year the Kent County Show will feature even more farming exhibits. The Why Farming Matters in Kent area will tell the story of fruit in the county and will give visitors a chance to talk to farmers and growers, see cookery demonstrations, take part in interactive quizzes, and get up close to farm animals.

And back by popular demand is Titan The Robot, who is happy to pose for photographs.

On tickets booked before July 8, adults can apply for additional complimentary child tickets for every adult ticket purchased at £17.50. For prices in advance and on the gate see www.kentshowground.co.uk.

If you book tickets online or via the ticket hotline you can save up to 52 per cent on the gate price. The booking hotline is on 01622 633060, or see kentshowground.co.uk/show2011/buy-your-ticket/.

To be in with a chance of winning a family ticket, answer this question:

The Devil's Horsemen will be performing in the main ring, one of their shows will be?

A) Roman gladiator display
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C) Wild West display

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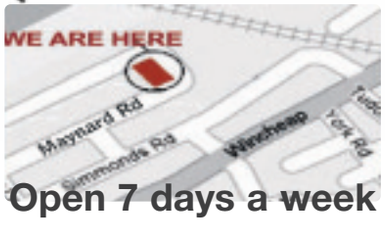

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DANGER ZONE: Older female drivers committed the most offences at level crossings, cameras showed

ROADS

County's drivers among worst in South East for jumping level crossings

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN aimed at cutting dangerous driving at level crossings has exposed Kent as one of the worst counties for offences.

Findings from an initiative involving police camera vans located by level crossings revealed there were 195 prosecutions since the scheme was launched in January.

It put Kent as the worst area in the South East behind London, despite a highly visible presence at crossings.

Sandwich was highlighted as one of the towns with a high number of offences and 51 prosecutions, but a Network Rail spokesman admitted some areas were more heavily monitored.

The camera initiative looks to curb dangerous activity at level crossings where motorists often jump lights, drive through barriers as they come down, hit barriers, or obstruct yellow boxes. Female motorists aged 50-65 committed the most offences in the South East.

Of the recorded incidents in the South East, there were 31 vehicles almost hit by a train, 77 near misses by pedestrians, 58 cases where vehicles struck barriers, and two hit by trains.

Network Rail's director of operational services, Dyan Crowther, said: "The camera vehicle has proved what we always believed; that far too many people are misusing level crossings. Although the initial trend shows older people are responsible for the highest number of offences, all ages misuse crossings.

"Our aim is to deter them all rather than prosecute. We hope those caught will change their behaviour, and along with our other activities we'll see a reduced impact on passenger services and the cost of these crimes on the running of the railway."

A new sat nav phone application raising awareness of level crossings has been launched in a bid to tackle the problem.

Supt Andrew Ball, from British Transport Police, said: "When people ignore the warnings there can be fatal circumstances.

"We understand that waiting at a crossing can be frustrating, but warnings are there to protect the public from an incredibly busy rail network."

Mrs Crowther added: "Motorists who jump the lights or smash into barriers as they try and beat them coming down can cause great disruption and cost to the network, so we're always looking at new ways to reduce the risk of incidents."

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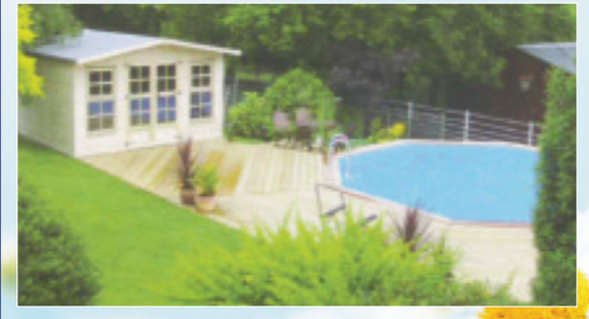

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OAP fakes own death for insurance pay-out

A PENSIONER from Petham has admitted faking his own death to cash in on an insurance pay-out.

Anthony McErlean, 66, of Swarling Hill Road, had concocted an elaborate ruse where he pretended to be his wife, claiming he had died following a road smash in Honduras on December 6, 2009.

Kent Police were alerted to the scam by the Insurance Fraud Bureau after his insurance company became suspicious.

Officers arrested McErlean and found him in possession of a credit card in the name of Green.

Police discovered McErlean not only faked his own death, but had been claiming pensions relating to his father-in-law from a previous marriage, who had died in March, 2007. Appearing at Canterbury Crown Court, he also admitted claiming pensions relating to someone else.

McErlean had been charged with fraudulently making a claim to ACE European insurance for death benefit of £520,000, fraudulently obtaining a passport, and two counts of theft in claiming pensions of £40,658 and £27,000.

He will be sentenced next month.

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QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Honours a 'wonderful validation' of their work

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

CONSERVATIVE grandee Michael Howard heads the list of Kent's great and good recognised in the Queen's birthday honours list.

The former Tory leader – who served as Folkestone and Hythe MP for 27 years before stepping down last May – was given an Order of the Companions of Honour in the annual awards.

His is the best-known political name in the list of just under 1,000 recipients, which includes a knighthood for entertainer Bruce Forsyth and a CBE for Oscar-winning actor Colin Firth.

There was also an honour for Lord Howard's Tory colleague and Medway Council leader Rodney Chambers, who picked up an OBE for services to local government.

Cllr Chambers said: "It is an enormous privilege and a great honour to serve and represent the people of Medway as a local politician.

"I am extremely pleased and very proud to be honoured by the Queen for this in her birthday honours list.

"Although much has been achieved, there is still much to do and I look forward to my years ahead serving Medway and working with our partners to bring prosperity and further opportunity for its residents."

One of the highest honours on the list was a Royal Victorian Order for the outgoing Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Allan Willett.

The Queen gives the Order only to people who have served her or the monarchy in a personal way, and Mr Willett has hosted 95 royal visits to the county since he was appointed in 2002.

It is the second honour to have been bestowed upon him after he was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 1997.

Mr Willett said: "Naturally I'm delighted to be honoured in this way, especially as the Royal Victorian Order is the personal gift of the Queen."

Also honoured is the chief executive of Chatham's Historic Dockyard Trust, Bill Ferris, who received an OBE for his services to heritage.

Mr Ferris, 53, said: "I am very surprised and very proud indeed. Honours are things that other people get, and as a team player it still feels a little strange.

"I definitely feel my honour is a reflection of the achievement of a huge number of people since 1984 when the Navy left this great dockyard in the hands of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust. I hope that in being awarded the honour it is, in part, on their behalf."

Meanwhile, there were celebrations at the University for the Creative Arts – which has campuses in Rochester, Canterbury and Maidstone – as two of its most senior members of staff were both recognised for their outstanding contribution to the creative arts in higher education.

The university's vice-chancellor Elaine Thomas received a CBE, while Cranbrook resident Lesley Millar, a professor of textile culture at UCA Farnham, was awarded an MBE.

Prof Millar said: "I am absolutely delighted to receive this award. I certainly did not expect it and feel totally overwhelmed and grateful.

"The fact it is the Queen's birthday honours list somehow makes it feel more personal and doubly special. It is a wonderful validation of the work and philosophy at UCA that the vice-chancellor and I have both been honoured by the Queen, especially at this time of stress for universities and the higher education sector."

RECOGNITION: From left: Prof Elaine Thomas, Michael Howard, Cllr Rodney Chambers, Bill Ferris and Lord Lieutenant Allan Willett were honoured

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Picture: SIMON KELSEY

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ONE of the highlights of the summer in Medway – the Castle Proms – will provide the grand finale to this year's Castle Concerts on Saturday, July 16.

The Royal Philharmonic Proms Orchestra will return to perform a selection of classical favourites, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display.

Highlights of this year's programme will include Tchaikovsky's thundering 1812 Overture, the ever-popular Nessun Dorma, and excerpts from Bizet's passionate opera Carmen,

The evening will climax with a finale of all the traditional Last Night of the Proms flag-waving favourites for the audience to join in with.

The orchestra will also be joined by the acclaimed voices of the 80-strong Hertfordshire Chorus. Guest soloists this year are soprano Jo Appleby, and tenor Jonathon Ansell who shot to fame with pop opera group G4 on the X Factor.

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This year's line-up includes Squeeze on July 13, Peter Andre on July 14, and N-Dubz on July 15. For more information and to check ticket availability visit www.castleconcerts.co.uk.

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LORD LIEUTENANT

Viscount chosen to become the Queen's new man in Kent

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A DESCENDANT of the great 16th century poet Sir Philip Sidney has been appointed the Queen's next representative in the county.

Viscount De L'Isle – who was given the same name as his more famous relative – will become the 34th Lord Lieutenant of Kent when the man who currently holds the position, Allan Willett, retires at the end of August.

And Mr Willett, who was recognised with a Royal Victorian Order in the Queen's birthday honours list, said he was certain his deputy was the perfect candidate to succeed him.

"During his time as my Vice Lord Lieutenant he has done so much for Kent," he said.

"From the start of my term of office Philip has been closely involved in the modernisation of the Lieutenancy and with our campaigns to encourage greater public support for our Armed Forces and their families, promoting volunteering in the community, and celebrating youth achievement.

"He and his wife Isobel have performed a great many public duties and are well known across the whole of Kent for taking a keen interest and celebrating all that's good about the county. I commend them to the people of Kent."

LORD LIEUTENANT: Viscount De L'Isle

Lord De L'Isle lives at the historic Penshurst Place mansion near Tonbridge, which has been the ancestral home of the Sidney family for more than 400 years.

The former Army major, who retired in 1979 to manage the estate, is currently chairman of the Canterbury Cathedral Trust as well as an honorary colonel of the Kent Army Cadet Force.

He said: "I am greatly privileged that Her Majesty the Queen has appointed me to succeed Allan Willett. I have greatly enjoyed my 15-year apprenticeship as a Deputy Lieutenant, nine of those as Allan's Vice Lord Lieutenant.

"It has been an amazing honour to have played a small part in the modernising of the Lieutenancy that Allan undertook. All the people in Kent will, I am sure, wish to join me in thanking Allan and Anne Willett for their dedicated service and generosity to the county, and not least for the tremendous support they have given to the great appeal for Canterbury Cathedral."

The stated aims of the Lieutenancy of Kent are to provide a focus for county identity, unity and pride; to give a sense of stability; to recognise achievements, success and excellence; and to promote service to others.

Mr Willett, who last year fought a recurrence of prostate cancer, is due to retire on August 24 – his 75th birthday.

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AFGHANISTAN

Freed prisoner reveals his Afghan jail hell

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A FORMER Army officer locked up in a notorious Afghan prison on false bribery charges has relived the terrifying ordeal which saw him pushed to the brink of insanity.

Almost a year since he was acquitted, father-of-three Bill Shaw spoke to KoS about the circumstances that led to his arrest and the five months of hell behind bars with members of the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

The 53-year-old, whose family live in Dover, was wrongfully arrested in Afghanistan while working for security firm G4S providing protection for foreigners in Kabul. His daughter, Lisa Lucklyn-Malone, a teacher at Whitfield Primary School, launched a campaign to have him freed and he was acquitted in July, 2010.

Mr Shaw has now released a book, Kill Switch, telling the story of his Army life and horrifying experience.

His ordeal started in October, 2009, when he was ordered by the NDS, the Afghan government's intelligence service, to pay for the release of vehicles they had confiscated from his company.

"I was against giving in to extortion, but we had no option. It was either pay the fine, which I thought was legitimate, or lose the vehicles which had very expensive loads on board," he said.

But in the following months Mr Shaw was asked to meet with the authorities to discuss the matter and on March 3, 2010, he was arrested on bribery charges.

"I had been travelling in and out of Afghanistan over that period so had I wanted to leave I could have, but I have pride and would not have run away – that's not the kind of person I am."

Mr Shaw, who received an MBE for his 28 years of service in the Army, was taken to Tawqeef, a feared detention centre.

"When I went in I was met by a sea of bodies on the floor; everyone just lay where they could.

"I didn't think I'd be in there for long as the British Embassy was working on my case" he said.

"I walked to my 4m x 4m cell where 16 men lived and was introduced to a few inmates; one was an Australian man who was in there for murder – he had been sentenced to death – and the cell leader, a lovely Afghan chap who welcomed me with open arms.

JAIL: Bill Shaw in Tawqeef with Afghan inmates

"The prison was designed for 150 inmates, but held 550 with just 12 trap toilets."

Mr Shaw was in court three weeks after his arrest, with the judge admitting he thought the ex-pat was innocent.

"I didn't understand why I wasn't been released," said Mr Shaw.

"I got back to the prison and started being threatened by the Taliban. The elders from south Afghanistan tried to protect me, but the British Embassy had me moved to a more secure prison.

"This second place was like my Guantanamo Bay. There was a lot of filth – excrement, spit on the walls. It was like a mental institution.

"There was no writing or reading materials. They shaved my head and I was manacled around the feet. It was like I was a convicted murderer. It was mental torture for me.

"I had no idea what was going on outside. I wasn't allowed visitors except for 30 minutes a week. My company called my family to keep them updated, but they were so worried. I didn't want my family to know what I was going through."

On April 26, 2010, Mr Shaw stood trial and was sentenced to two years in prison, but his daughter had launched a massive campaign with help from MP for Dover Charlie Elphicke.

Mr Shaw was moved to a third prison, the notorious Pul-e-Charki, alongside Taliban and al-Qaeda inmates who put a $10,000 bounty on his head.

"At first I thought surely I was worth more than that; but seriously, if prisoners injured me or killed me they would get what was a few years' salary for them.

"I was kept in solitary confinement for my own protection, but Taliban would walk up and down and spit in my cell and make death threats."

During visiting times, Mr Shaw was told about the national campaign for his release and in July, 2010, he was put before the courts to be told he was free. His Afghan interpreter and co-defendant Maiwand Limar, who has been arrested at the same time, had his sentence reduced from two years to eight months.

"For the first few weeks I was out I didn't really know what was going on," said Mr Shaw.

"I'd spent the last few months being led by the nose without making any decisions for myself.

"While in prison I had started writing a book – mentally though as there were no writing materials – and when I got out I carried on and have just had it published."

He returns to work for G4S in July.

"I won't be going back to Afghanistan – I have my own reasons and my family wouldn't let me."

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CRIME

Callous thieves steal taps from cemetery

THREE taps have been stolen from a cemetery.

Offenders broke into the old and new cemetery on Capel Road in Sittingbourne overnight on Friday, June 10. Police believes the valves were taken for their scrap value.

Water was leaking from where the taps had been removed and the mains water had to be turned off, inconveniencing mourners who wanted to water flowers on graves of loved ones.

Anyone with information can contact police on 01795 419182 or Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 quoting crime reference CY/009049/11.

CHARITY

Vicar is facing a wet time at summer fayre

A DISPLAY of classic American cars will bring an exciting addition to the fairground rides, displays and stalls at Kennington Summer Fayre in Ashford on Saturday, June 25.

There will also the chance to 'soak the vicar', while the star prize in the Grand Draw is a night of luxury for two at Eastwell Manor worth £250.

Last year's event attracted more than 2,000 visitors and raised £8,500 for charities.

The fayre is at the Recreaction Ground, Ulley Road, from noon-4pm. Free parking and admission.

For more details contact 01233 627603.

WATER SAFETY

Third tragedy as campaign starts for river safety

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A WATER safety campaign has been launched following the deaths of two boys in unrelated incidents in the River Medway.

Cameron Sandell, 14, died when his canoe capsized at Teston Lock, near Maidstone, on April 17, and then late last month Alex Chappell, 12, drowned after falling from a rope swing at nearby Tovil.

And there has been a third death since the campaign was launched at the start of the week.

Keith James Brook, 42, of Snodland, died after falling in the River Medway at Maidstone on Monday afternoon.

Kent Police have teamed up with Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Kent County Council, Maidstone council, Maidstone Leisure Centre and the Environment Agency to increase awareness of the dangers of playing near rivers.

Insp Jerry Prodger, of the town's neighbourhood policing team, said: "These tragic events have left us in no doubt that the risk posed by rivers should not be underestimated.

"We will be visiting schools in Maidstone to speak with children directly about the dangers of playing near water and how to stay safe during the summer holidays."

Cllr Sarah Hohler – KCC cabinet member for education – added: "With the summer holidays just weeks away and good weather forecast, it's important to remind children and young people to be safe around rivers and lakes."

Following Alex Chappell's death on Monday, May 30, it was revealed by officers that he had not been a strong swimmer.

His mother Gina Tweddell and father, Adam Ottaway said: "Words can't explain the emotion and loss we feel. Stay safe our brave boy, we will be with you very soon. You will always be in our hearts and our hearts will always be with you."

LOSS: Alex Chappell died in river

In an attempt to prevent any more similar tragedies, Maidstone Leisure Trust – which manages the leisure centre at Mote Park – has stumped up £5,000 to fund swimming lessons for more than 130 primary school children in the borough.

Tom McManus of the Environment Agency, said: "We advise people never to jump into a river. At least 30 per cent of our waterways staff are on standby 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and are often called out to keep the waterways clear and safe for boat users."

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News

TRANSPORT

Students make protest film to prevent bus service cuts

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

YOUNG protestors have warned education secretary Michael Gove about the threat transport cuts pose to post-16 students.

Samuel Watkin, 14, a pupil at Oakwood Park Grammar School in Maidstone, was one of a delegation of youngsters who delivered a film to Westminster outlining the fears of young bus users.

He said it was essential that decision-makers looked at the proposed bus cuts from a teenager's perspective.

She said: "We are the ones who will bear the brunt of these cuts because public transport is a lifeline for so many young people who can't drive and can't rely on their parents for lifts.

"I wanted to make this film to show the real issues affecting young people like me."

The short film was created with help from Campaign for Better Transport, British Youth Council, Association of Colleges, Kent Youth County Council,

CAMPAIGN: Alexandra Woods with Samuel Watkin, aged 14

National Children's Bureau, UK Youth Parliament, and the University and College Union.

It highlights concerns over shrinking bus networks and planned above-inflation fare rises for post-16 students, plus fears over the scrapping of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), which saw poorer students aged 16-19 given weekly payments of £10-30 a week to help toward transport costs.

Campaign for Better Transport's bus campaigner, Sophie Allain, said: "Young people depend on buses to access education and training opportunities inside and outside of college. If they cannot catch the bus they are seriously disadvantaged.

"We're worried decisions about funding for post-16 students are being made in isolation and it will only be in September that the impacts of all these changes will be clear. By then of course it will be too late."

Plans to provide concessionary bus travel for Kent students aged 16 and above are being worked on at County Hall.

Kent County Council cabinet member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Sarah Hohler, said post-16 transport was an issue raised during visits to schools.

"I am keen students stay in education or training after they finish their GCSEs and do not want the cost of transport to be a barrier to them pursuing their studies," she said.

"I have sought the support of John Hayes MP, minister for further education, skills and lifelong learning. He welcomed the work Kent has been doing to find ways to help young people."

■ **See yourmaidstone.co.uk for the latest news and sport.**

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OPINION

Funding gap for mental illness

Parent Anthony Wright says life expectancy statistics for mental health patients would create a huge public outcry in any other medical field

THE conclusion of a recent study by the University of East Anglia reveals an alarming statistic.

Life expectancy for severely mentally ill patients in Kent is being reduced by up to 25 years due to poor physical health.

Some 2.5 per cent of the population has serious mental illness, and this excludes borderline personality disorder.

So, in Kent, approximately 40,000 people are losing nearly a third of their lives through clinical inadequacy. This deserves headline attention.

Unfortunately, the study does not do a comparison with the rest of the country, but if the same statistic applies this means that in the UK 1.5 million people have this penalty.

If similar figures and circumstances were published for other serious illnesses such as cancer and heart disease there would be public outcry.

But there is not, so we have further evidence of the stigma attached to mental illness. There is no evidence politicians are willing to pick up on this.

The answer, the county's mental health trust (Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust) has said, is not just closer physical health monitoring but also addressing the underlying mental illness and the resulting involuntary lifestyle from that illness. This needs to be done through proper, fully-assessed, care plans.

Serious mental illness sufferers are incarcerated by their symptoms, which need to be treated with adequate time and expertise not token delivery due to continuous underfunding.

People with mental health problems suffer from positive and negative symptoms which bring with them thought-interference and low self-motivation.

What they need is more empathetic support and less reliance, where possible, on medication which causes weight gain.

More talking therapy is needed and we are short 50 experts in this field in Kent.

Far better presence of support workers is necessary to assertively get them to be active. They need to be proper buddies, not just 'tick a box' support, to give them the encouragement and self-esteem they so desperately need. Not to relatively abandon them in the community leaving them isolated.

It also needs to be mentioned that because of the despair in their lives they resort to self-medication to cope.

This includes alcohol. The chances are they are not alcoholics, but they drink excessively to deaden the pain and despair.

Official figures show 30-40 per cent are in this category, which is called dual diagnosis.

This is a complex area, which must be treated properly and according to NHS guidelines. But the mental health trust, in practice, does not provide an appropriate treatment model and instead offers a cheap compromise, more political than clinical.

In Kent, 40,000 people lose a third of their life through clinical failings

A representative from the trust is reported as saying they had simply forgotten about physical wellbeing of patients.

This is difficult to believe when the top four mental health charities, including Rethink and Mind, have been shouting about this for the last decade.

The fundamental problem is that, with serious mental illness, the clinical resources are inadequate to meet caseload. The needs of service users are not being met according to evidence-based treatment.

The less treatment there is for the mental illness, the greater the threat of physical illness.

■ Anthony Wright, of Sevenoaks, has a grown-up son with serious mental health problems. He is also a member of Rethink's South West Kent Voluntary Support Group.

KOS COMMENT

Outspoken bishop is best man for the job

THE Kent Forum appears to have made a wise choice in appointing the Bishop of Dover as its champion for 'putting the citizen in control'.

Far from seeking to avoid conflict, Trevor Willmott has his own forthright views on the Big Society and is clearly willing to share them – exactly what is needed from a man in his position.

The forum is a partnership of councils almost entirely run by the Conservatives, and if the Vision for Kent strategy is to succeed then it needs people who are not afraid to voice opinions the Government might not agree with.

And succeed it must if our county is to prosper in the years to come.

Have a great day no matter what happens

IT'S that time of year again when dads across Kent are allowed to park themselves on the sofa with a cold beer in one hand and a TV remote in the other – in theory at least.

However it turns out, we wish you all a Happy Father's Day.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advdertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

CATTERALL
David and Sarah Catterall celebrate the birth of their daughter Bo Georgia Ruby Titania, who was born on 30th May, 2011. Bo is a baby sister for Zach and Mia.

GILLMORE
Sameena and Danny are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Elivia Amelie Gillmore, born on 5th May, 2011, weighing 7lb 5oz.

GOLD
Layla born on the 29th April, 2011, weighing 6lb 9oz, daughter to Jade and Stewart Gold in the Maidstone Hospital.

HICKMOTT
Adam and Chelsea are delighted to welcome baby Bobby to the world. Born 11:25am on 11th June, 2011, weighing 2lb 5oz.

IRWIN
Jo and Stuart of Canterbury are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Oscar Leonard Andrew Irwin, born on 24th May, 2011, at Buckland Hospital. A brother for George and Jonathon.

LAINSBURY
Lucian born on 1st June, 2011, weighing 8lb 14oz. Son to Jason and Hayley in Ramsgate. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

MACSYKES
Alison and Patrick of Deal are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Annabel Sophia Macsykes, born at home on 4th June, 2011.

MORRIS
Steve and Jennifer celebrate the birth of their daughter Chloe-Louise Morris on 22nd May, 2011. Sister to Fraizer and Sophia.

NEWBERRY
Stacey and Christoper celebrate the birth of their son Isaac Christopher Newberry on 27th May, 2011.

PIERCY
Andrew and Sarah Piercy would like to announce the birth of their son Joshua Thomas. Born on the 28th May, 2011, weighing 8lb 9oz. We are happy to welcome our most beautiful and precious son.

PLANT
George born on 9th June, 2011, weighing 6lb 8oz. Son to Charlie and Christopher in Maidstone.

PORTER
Lloyd and Hazel celebrate the birth of their first born daughter Iona Hazel on the 26th May, 2011, weighing 5lb 9oz.

SMITH
Sam and Steve of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Miley Jane Smith, born on 25th April, 2011, at QEQM Hospital, Margate, weighing 6lb 6oz. Mummy and Daddy's special little angel.

TYRRELL
Sophie and Daniel Tyrrell welcome the birth of their daughter Alice Marie Joan, born on the 25th May, 2011, weighing 7lb, in Ashford, Kent.

DEATHS

CRAVEN
Peter George Craven sadly passed away on June 2nd, 2011, at the family home, Orchard House, Boughton Lane, age 78. A loving husband, father and grandfather, you're in our thoughts and please know how much you are loved and deeply missed by all. The funeral service at St Francis Roman Catholic Church, Maidstone, on 20th June, 2011, at 12:30 and after at the Cemetary, Sutton Road. No flowers but donations to the following charities, Oasteoporosis Charity and also the Children of Kerala Charity. Charitable donations to Birds Funeral Directors, 16 Fisher Street, Maidstone, ME14 2SW.

DUNN
Anna (Nancy) Dunn, formerly of Bromley, passed away on 4th June. To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

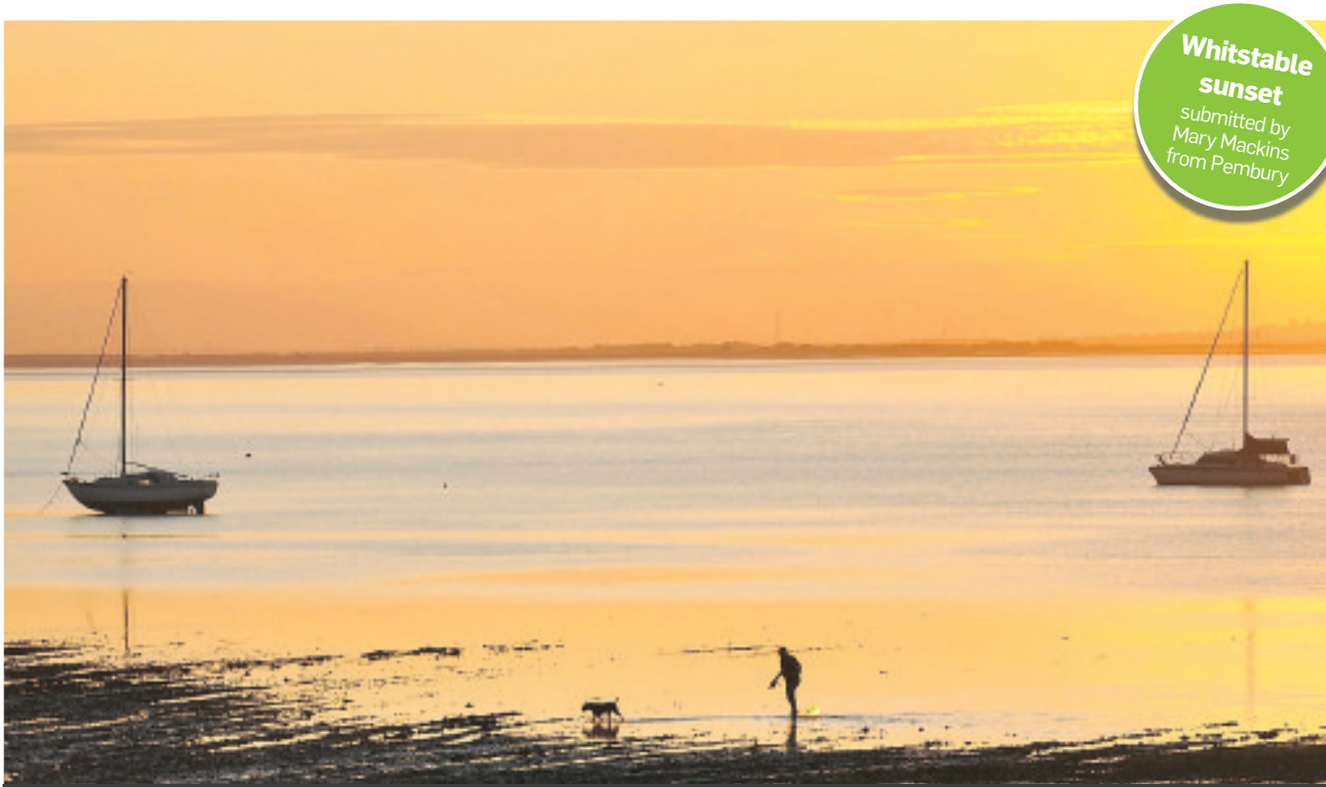
McINNES
Alan, passed away 4th June, 2011, at QEQM Hospital. Funeral to take place at Thanet Crematorium at 10am on 20th June, 2011. All enquiries to Gore Brothers 01843 292 644.

MEEKUMS
Violet on 4th June, 2011, aged 96, died peacefully in Maidstone Hospital. Beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral enquiries to Co-Operative Funeral Care 01622 753033.

POLLOCK
Barbara Joan of Faversham died peacefully on 4th June, 2011. Funeral Service at St Mary of Charity Parish Church, Faversham, at 12.00 on 22nd June.

SCRIVNER
Carole Anne Margaret, aged 73 years, passed away peacefully at the William Harvey Hospital on 31st May, 2011, after a long illness. Will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

WIGGINTON
Violet (Peggy) passed away on 7th June, 2011, in Kent House. Funeral Service at Thanet Crematorium, Monday, 20th June, at 2.40pm. Donations to Alzheimers Society C/O Palmers. Will always be remembered with love.



Whitstable sunset
submitted by Mary Mackins from Pembury

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Head defends expulsions

I read with interest the article by Peter Read on school expulsions and would like to make some observations.

Peter is right that Westlands School has permanently excluded 11 pupils this school year. However, he is wrong to suggest there is a causal link between exclusions and academy status. What Peter fails to mention is Westlands is one of the largest schools in the county with 1,750 pupils. He also fails to point out one of the key reasons for our outstanding levels of performance is the tough line we take on challenging poor behaviour.

At Westlands, permanent exclusion is a last resort and is used when all other practical options have been explored. Before a decision to permanently exclude is confirmed it is ratified by a panel of governors supported by the local authority exclusion officer. In the seven years I have been headteacher the governors have supported every decision made as being the right thing to do.

Each school will have its own approach to managing challenging behaviour. My view is that I am, first and foremost, responsible for all children's safety and their attainment within my school. I believe all children have a right to be taught as free from disruption and poor behaviour as possible. There will always be a small minority of pupils whose behaviour falls significantly outside of acceptable parameters, potentially affecting others' chances of success as well as their health and safety.

I believe most parents want the headteacher to take a strong line on discipline to protect the interests of the majority.

Peter Read, by his own admission, is opposed to new-style academies due mainly to his concerns over their perceived lack of accountability. What he fails to recognise is all schools, are directly accountable to parents, pupils and communities through ensuring all pupils have the right to learn free from the disruptive few.

Mr J Whitcombe, headteacher, Westlands School, Sittingbourne

Giving me the night terrors

I publish the No Night Flights email newsletter Gerry O'Donnell wrote about last week (Letters).

Out of the 1,100 people who subscribe, Mr O'Donnell is the only one who has found it scary. Readers can decide for themselves by going to www.NoNightFlights.info where they can see past copies of the newsletter and sign up for free – if their nerves will stand it!

I assume Mr O'Donnell was exaggerating for comic effect when he said the airport is portrayed as a source of Aids and bulimia, but there's nothing funny about either condition.

We don't invent or embellish facts, as Mr O'Donnell suggests – they are drawn from university research, international government health departments, the World Health Organisation, and so on.

Mr O'Donnell can click the 'unsubscribe' button on the newsletter – that will stop the emails arriving. But it won't stop the facts from being true.

Phil Rose, Herne Bay

Flying flag for isle prosperity

Gerry O'Donnell's letter was just what was needed and what he said about those who do not want an airport here was absolutely true.

Those who have complained are only interested in themselves, and have no interest in prosperity for the island.

Let us hope more and more of those who are in favour of prosperity for Thanet will write in and give their support.

J Sherwell, by email

Defend people living in care

Politicians in Westminster are debating the fate of 80,000 disabled people as they decide whether to grant government the power to remove the Personal Independence Payment mobility component, which will be replacing Disability Living Allowance, from people living in residential care. This benefit helps people meet extra mobility costs like an adapted car or accessible taxis.

The Government hopes this will save £160 million out of the £81 billion spending cuts it plans to make by 2014-15. However, whilst the savings may be small in relation to the overall cuts, the impact on individuals will be devastating. Removing this benefit will leave disabled people living in residential care isolated and denied the independence most people take for granted. MPs have the opportunity to stop it.

We are again calling on MPs to remember disabled people, who are being affected by spending cuts in many ways, as they decide the fate of 80,000 people in residential care.

V Chittenden Maidstone

Lessons to be learnt by KCC

As someone who has had direct contact with Kent County Council's children's services over a period of years I can understand why the council leader and the cabinet member want to "leave the blame culture behind and move on". A proper inquiry into the failings would be embarrassing.

The trouble with "moving on" is unless you look carefully at what went wrong – and who was responsible – you are not going to learn the lessons. Here are a few suggestions which seem to have escaped the 'leaders' at County Hall.

There has been too much emphasis, in terms of time, resources, and effort, by politicians and senior officers on 'sucking up' to central government. Similarly, they concentrated on getting good marks out of the Audit Commission, Ofsted, and other regulators, rather than finding out what was actually going on.

Neither councillors or senior officials paid enough attention to what goes on at the frontline. With any customer-focused organisation, attention to detail is so important. The signs of trouble were there when senior officials started to call themselves 'Strategic Directors'. This was a sure sign they thought dealing with performance and delivering a good service was beneath them. In particular, they clearly failed to take seriously complaints from service users. And they followed a policy of mulish obstinacy when it came to releasing information to the public (another sure sign of an organisation with something to hide).

If they had been doing their jobs properly, they would have noticed hard-pressed junior staff were struggling to deal with their caseload of complicated and sensitive cases. They would have spotted too much time was being spent on unnecessary meetings and paperwork. They would have seen that there were too many levels of management not spending enough time on supervising their staff.

Finally, a wider lesson to be learned is there needs to be some distance between councillors and paid officers. The generosity of the ruling group to their officers – in terms of high pay, feeble systems of performance assessment, highly beneficial redundancy arrangements, and so on – suggests an unhealthy relationship.

In this working environment, neither councillors or officers are going to rock the boat. So you end up with the organisation not being honest with itself. As a result, the ratepayers and the clients – the children, their carers, and their families – all suffer.

Paul Twyman, Minnis Bay

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Online this week at
www.mymoney24.co.uk:

High-yield bonds carry more risk

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q OUR savings are in the bank, earning just over 2pc. A few years ago we were getting four times as much interest, or more. An advertisement from Cornhill Capital is offering 14pc interest on high-yield bonds. Can you have a look at this, please, and let us know whether this would be a safe scheme? We are retired and cannot afford to lose our savings.

A CORNHILL Capital (020 7710 9610) is not some sort of fly-by-night rip-off company that will take your savings and disappear. It is fully licensed by the Financial Services Authority, which has individually vetted and approved its directors. But this is not a safe scheme. It is a high-risk scheme. Who says so? Cornhill Capital itself. If you did invest, your money would go into a basket of high-yield bonds issued by natural resource companies whose shares are traded on the Alternative Investment Market (Aim). What this means in plain English is that your money would be lent to these companies. Bonds are just IOUs. If a company goes bust and has no money or assets, its bondholders lose their investment. Lots of major companies issue bonds. The safer the company, the lower the return it needs to offer in order to raise the cash it needs. A safe company might offer 6pc or 7pc. The fact that Cornhill's scheme offers the prospect of 14pc simply reflects the risks involved. The bonds it buys come from companies in the oil, gas, and similar industries. These are risky areas. And the companies themselves are not giants like BP or Shell. They are not traded on the full Stock Exchange, but on the junior Aim market. Cornhill says: "High-yielding bond transactions should be regarded as a speculative investment with a high risk and are not suitable for everybody." Sensible words.

Q I READ your advice about the new National Savings index-linked certificates being a good investment, but I am not sure that I can tie my money up for as long as five years. Are they still worth it if you have to cash in early?

A INDEX-linked certificates are a good investment even if you draw your money out early. And they are a very good investment if you stay for the full five years. The only note of caution is that if you encash your certificates during the first year, you will just get back your own money, with no index-linking and no interest. After that, your money grows in line with the retail prices index, with a top-up equal to 0.5pc interest per year, all tax-free. Nobody can guarantee how the RPI will behave, but a rough estimate is that these certificates will pay about 4pc a year. And yes, they are still worth it even if you take your money out before five years. As long as you have passed the one-year mark, you will still get the index-linking, though the top-up will fall. After one year, for example, you would get index-linking plus 0.25pc.

Q CAN you let me know what happened to leisure company Ken Clarkson Ltd? I booked a London theatre break, but after I paid in February it appears the company went into liquidation. Will I get any money back?

A KEN Clarkson Limited failed to file details that were due at Companies House in March, showing who owns the company. This is an offence and often means a company is facing problems. A meeting of creditors was held in April, but it is too soon to say how much money there might be to compensate anyone. To stake a claim, contact Mark Bowen, MB Insolvency, Aston House, 5 Aston Road North, Birmingham B6 4DS (0121 359 6455).

Q I RECEIVED an email, saying that DHL had tried unsuccessfully to deliver a parcel, so would I phone to arrange a time. I called, but got a taped message and there was nobody to answer questions, so I got a different number for DHL, but they denied all knowledge of any parcel. I replied to the email, but it bounced back.

A THIS is a scam and there is no parcel. The number you called will have been a premium rate number and the taped message was designed to keep you hanging on and running up your phone bill.

Q MY WIFE and I separated in 2005, and were divorced in 2009. She moved away, but I am still in our old home and now and again I get calls from debt collectors, asking for her. Could I be held responsible for her debts at all?

A YOU could only be held responsible for debts on a joint account or for a loan that you signed for as a guarantor. Debts in your ex-wife's sole name, that you did not guarantee, are her responsibility alone.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Guard against high roaming charges

By Ed Foss
MyMoney 24 writer

SUNSEEKERS and holidaymakers have been warned to check their mobile phone contracts before heading abroad, or face huge bills on their return to the UK.

Users of iPads in particular have been told to look at their roaming charges while abroad.

The summer getaway is just around the corner and while many people are weighing up the costs of a week in the sun, others will be looking for the best option for using their iPads abroad without running up huge mobile broadband bills.

Michael Phillips, product director at Broadbandchoices.co.uk, said: "iPads are incredibly useful to take away on holiday since they allow you to stay in touch, listen to music, watch films and keep up to date with any potential travel issues while you are away. However, even simple tasks like checking your email can become expensive if you are using your domestic iPad tariff to surf while on holiday abroad.

"New rules were introduced in 2010, placing the onus on broadband providers to cap the cost of using the internet while abroad within the EU at €50 (about £44) – but this is still rather expensive, and is only applicable within the EU.

"If consumers are going online in countries just outside the EU or elsewhere in the world, they are exposing themselves to prices and policies that vary massively from one supplier to the next. Roaming costs for iPads aren't necessarily the same as those applied to regular mobile broadband packages."

To avoid roaming charges, first check the small print.

Although EU roaming costs are capped, some providers such as 3 apply a cap no matter where you are in the world, while others offer no cap at all for countries outside the EU.

Find out from your supplier what the rules are for your destination.

Set your own usage cap. If you are concerned that you won't be able to keep track of your surfing while abroad, contact your provider to set a cut-off point.

Use wi-fi when you can. Making use of wi-fi in a hotel, a coffee shop or even a McDonald's allows you to surf for free on a faster, more reliable signal. Even if you have to pay to use a local wi-fi connection, this can still work out cheaper than paying premium roaming rates.

Avoid hidden costs. Turn off applications that use the internet to update your information automatically – for example, tools that keep track of your location and post it to Facebook.

Allowing these to continue running throughout your holiday can lead to huge charges being racked up.

Turn off data roaming. The easiest way to avoid mobile broadband charges while abroad is to turn off data roaming on your iPad.

When you arrive overseas, consider buying a local Sim card that you can adapt to fit your iPad.

It will almost certainly be cheaper than paying roaming rates to your UK provider.

Mr Phillips said: "Anyone planning a staycation this year as an alternative to going abroad should still ensure they are on the best Sim-only plan for mobile broadband on the move."

STAYING IN TOUCH: But using an iPad on holiday could cost a fortune

Cheap insurance may not be best value

MANY consumers have become so obsessed with the price of insurance that they are finding themselves without the cover they need.

That's the main finding of a survey into people's insurance-buying habits, which also revealed that two thirds of us are not satisfied with claims processes or with the size of payouts.

"The cheapest insurance is often not the best value insurance," said John Evans, of online buying group Incahoot, which commissioned the research.

"Of course price is important, but with insurance, as with most things, it's rarely the whole story.

"Merely comparing prices could be a shortcut you'll regret."

The study found that fewer than half of all people who buy insurance are concerned with policy details.

But that attitude can often backfire because 22pc of consumers decide not to make claims because of high policy excesses whilst a further 14pc find the whole claims process too much hassle.

News
'Boiler room' operator sent to jail

Best buys
Check out the leading saving deals

On the blogs
Peter Sharkey:
Car homes can expect close inspection

Oldest and poorest hit hard by inflation

OLDER and poorer people have experienced higher inflation on average than richer and younger people over the past decade.

And that difference has been especially marked since 2008.

The poorest fifth of households faced an average annual inflation rate of 4.3pc between 2008 and 2010, whilst the richest fifth experienced a rate of just 2.7pc a year over the same period.

And pensioners, and in particular those dependent on state benefits, experienced higher rates of inflation than non-pensioners.

Researchers at the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), funded by Consumer Focus, found that during the period of the recession, dramatic cuts to interest rates reduced mortgage payments, which tend to be more important for richer households.

At the same time, the prices of gas, electricity and food increased and this hit poorer households harder on average.

Domestic energy prices more than doubled between 2000 and 2010. Poorer households spend on average twice as much, as a share of their expenditure, on energy as richer households.

Research economist Peter Levell said: "Over the past few years relative price changes have tended to hit poorer and older households harder.

"Of course this pattern may well change in the future, but it does mean that poorer households will have fared worse over the period of the recession."

The latest figures from the Alliance Trust Research Centre concur with the IFS findings. The 65 to 74-year-old age group now faces the highest rate of inflation, at 5.2pc, which is nearly a fifth above the consumer prices index rate of 4.5pc.

Shona Dobbie, head of the Alliance Trust Research Centre, said: "Higher food prices have once again hit the elderly age groups the hardest this month.

"We expect that in the coming months higher gas and electricity price inflation will push the inflation rates facing these households even higher."

Workers could be missing out on mileage entitlement

By Ed Foss
MyMoney 24 writer

PEOPLE using their own cars for work could be missing out on their full mileage entitlement following the increase in mileage allowance payments, leaving them out of pocket.

Although the increases came into effect in April, many people who use their own car for business travel have remained unaware their mileage allowance has been increased from 40p to 45p,

The mileage rate for business travel exceeding 10,000 miles remains at 25p per mile, but the change to the initial rate will affect hundreds of thousands of workers.

Michael Muskett, a senior partner with accountancy firm PKF, said he thought the mileage increase had gone largely unnoticed by many people.

"Whether it was lost in the range of national insurance, tax and pension changes which came into force on April 6 we can't be exactly sure, but the mileage rate increase still seems to be news to many business drivers and businesses," said Mr Muskett.

"With fuel prices refusing to fall back following spiralling increases over the past few months, many motorists have been hit hard in the wallet.

"It seems strange they should be missing out on their extra entitlement.

"It is a matter for employers how much they pay their employees for the business use of a private car.

"But employees reimbursed less than the HM Revenue & Customs-approved 45p per business mile by their employer may claim mileage allowance relief up to the new limit from HMRC.

WATCH THAT DIAL: Employees using their own cars for work travel could be out of pocket unnecessarily

"Employees will need to ensure they keep accurate mileage records for any claims."

For example, if an employee drives 3,000 business miles in 2011-12 and receives 40p per mile from his or her employer, he or she is entitled to claim a reduction in taxable income of £150.

Volunteers carrying passengers as part of their volunteering duties will also be allowed to use the passenger payments allowance of 5p per mile per passenger.

This allowance already exists for employees. For people with company cars who receive a car fuel benefit, the base cost to which the relevant benefit percentage is applied increases by £800 to £18,800 for 2011-12.

Mr Muskett said: "This latest increase means that the tax cost of getting free private fuel from an employer can often outweigh the fuel cost savings, so employees should do their sums before deciding whether to take advantage of this benefit."

From April, 2012, there will be increases in the taxable benefit arising in respect of company cars with carbon dioxide emissions of between 100 and 225g/km.

Further changes to the system are planned from April, 2013.

PICK OF THE WEEK

In association with the experts at Moneyfacts.co.uk, we highlight some of the best new products launched this week.

Savings: Barnsley Building Society
A new fixed-rate bond paying 3.5pc to July, 2012, has been launched. Savers can invest between £1,000 and £2m and further additions can be made whilst the issue remains open. Early access is not allowed. The account can be operated by telephone only by savers aged 16 and over.
Why is it good? A review of short-term bonds by Barnsley has seen an increase of 0.2pc to the one-year fixed-rate bond. This deal sits just below the current short-term fixed bond market leaders.

Mortgages: Principality Building Society
Principality has revamped its mortgage product range, with selected fixed rates reduced by up to 0.4pc. Most notable is the new four-year fixed deal at 4.49pc to July, 2015. This product has a loan-to-value (LTV) of 75pc and allows customers to borrow between £5,000 and £500,000. No fee is payable and incentives include a free valuation and for remortgages free legal fees.
Why is it good? This latest fixed-rate deal offers a competitive rate. Borrowers looking to keep initial costs to a minimum will be pleased with the generous incentive package and the fact that there is no arrangement fee.

Mortgages: Northern Rock
Selected rates have been reduced in Northern Rock's latest review. The most eye-catching new deal is the five-year fixed product with an initial rate of 4.79pc to September, 2016. The maximum LTV is 75pc and first-time, second-time and remortgage customers can borrow a maximum of £1m. No fee is payable. Remortgage customers can enjoy incentives of a free valuation and free legal fees.
Why is it good? This product offers borrowers who are looking to keep set-up costs to a minimum a good deal. There are also the options to make overpayments and take payment holidays.

Investments: Cater Allen Private Bank
Cater Allen has launched its Annual Locked-in Return Plan 2. This structured product requires a minimum investment of £5,340 for a six-year term. On maturity the plan will pay 6.5pc for each year the FTSE 100 is at or above the initial index level on the annual observation date. The offer closes on August 5 and has a start date of September 7.
Why is it good? This new issue of Cater Allen's annual locked-in plan again sees a generous potential annual return dependent on the performance of the FTSE 100 – although the maximum return of 39pc may prove difficult to achieve should the FTSE 100 fail to perform, as the absence of a return in any one year will seriously deplete the overall return.

moneyfacts.co.uk

Pictured above: Dover Exhibition Conference Hall

The event dedicated to business across Kent and beyond

Business Week Live

Organised by ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Dover Exhibition Centre, Kent, Wednesday October 26th 2011

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VISIT: www.businessweeklive.co.uk for more details

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

LOCATE in Kent's year-end results show that it helped 73 firms move into the county during 2010-11. Its assistance to these companies led to more than 2,500 new, retained and indirect jobs. At a time when the economy is in a fragile state, Locate in Kent's work is of paramount importance to both the county and the country.

Now is the time for agencies such as Locate in Kent and local government bodies to do all they can to encourage growth and investment, creating new jobs and also supporting the existing business community.

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Going global the key to speeding up growth rates

EXPORTS will be key to the recovery of the region, according to the latest trade figures.

ICAEW/Grant Thornton's UK Business Confidence Monitor data shows South East firms' overseas sales have grown steadily since the end of 2009. Companies in the region saw Q2 exports rise by 4.6 per cent year-on-year and forecast growth of 4.9 per cent for the coming year.

Tellingly, this quarter's forecasts are stronger than typically seen before the recession.

Ellen Walsh, a managing partner at Grant Thornton, said: "The private sector is picking up, albeit slowly, and opportunities exist for those looking to international markets where sentiment, growth rates and demand for products and services are higher."

The South East is already the export epicentre of the nation, with its overseas trade figures outstripping any other region in the UK.

Figures from HM Revenue and Customs show South East businesses exported goods worth more than £43 million in the year ending March 2011, up 11 per cent year-on-year.

Lewis Scott, international trade director for UK trade and investment in the South East, said there was room for business across the region to further capitalise on geographical advantage.

"The growth in export business underlines the opportunities for our companies in the global market, feeding the expansion of emerging markets in particular. The position is encouraging, but more companies should be taking advantage of the opportunities," said Mr Scott.

The trade experts' shared belief that increased exports are paramount to the recovery of the region – and UK as a whole – further supports Archant KOS Media's decision to place the International Business Forum at the heart of our Business Week Live event.

The popular business-to-business conference, taking place at the Dover Cruise Exhibition Centre on Wednesday, October 26, will feature overseas exhibitors and associated trade organisations plus delegations of buyers.

Business Week Live project manager Sallie Payne said: "The International Business Forum raises awareness for export potential and offers exhibitors and visitors a wealth of commercial opportunity to expand and build partnerships, harbour collaborations and, importantly, gain new clients and revenue from a new market.

"Supported by a range of conference sessions and workshops on exporting and importing, the International Business Forum will open many new doors for businesses.

"If you want to expand your reach internationally, this is where to come."

More than half of the available stands have been booked. Speed-networking spots can now be reserved.

Exhibitors, visitors, sponsors and potential speakers should phone Sallie Payne on 01303 817056 or email sallie.payne@archant.co.uk.

EXPORT: International sales have risen and are expected to continue rising, becoming stronger than before the recession

ADMINISTRATION

Focus failure has knock-on effect

DESIGNER and distributor Proteam UK Limited has entered into administration.

The Tonbridge firm, which supplies leisure products to big retailers such as DIY stores and supermarkets, has appointed FRO Advisory LLP as administrator.

The firm's Jason Baker said: "A large proportion – approximately 35 per cent – of Proteam UK's sales came from Focus, the DIY chain, which itself entered administration in May 2011.

"As a result of the loss of sales from this major client, Proteam UK experienced serious liquidity problems and was unable to continue to trade without the protection of administration.

"There are currently no plans for any redundancies and it is very much business as usual.

"We continue to trade the company as a going concern while seeking a buyer for the business."

Proteam UK began trading in 1991, supplying garden, DIY and camping equipment to stores across the UK.

CUTS ARE NEEDED: David Philpott

TAX

Corporation tax is a burden to business

THE Institute of Directors is calling on the Government to slash corporation tax.

The plea was made after an IoD report found the tax burden on SMEs was holding back business.

IoD Kent chairman David Philpott said a reduction in corporation tax to 15 per cent, or a cut in employers' National Insurance contributions to 10 per cent, would give businesses a much-needed financial boost.

"The private sector in Kent, like elsewhere in the country, is going to have to drive the recovery," he said.

"However, tax burdens remain a real drag on growth. There is limited scope for radical cuts in the short term, but we want the Government to set out plans now to reduce this heavy burden sharply in the medium term to enable businesses to plan better for the upturn.

"Plans to reduce corporation tax rates need to be more ambitious, and the rate of employers' NI contributions needs to come down."

ALCOHOL

Sheps brewery raises concerns

TREASURY boss Justine Greening visited a Kent brewery and vineyard during a fact-finding tour of the county's alcohol industry.

The Conservative 42-year-old, who serves as Economic Secretary to the Treasury, stopped off at Shepherd Neame's Faversham base before heading to Chapel Down, Tenterden.

The Putney MP said: "This was a valuable chance for me to hear directly from across the alcohol industry."

Shepherd Neame chief executive Jonathan Neame said: "We were pleased to see the minister take an active interest in beer and pubs. The visit provided us with an opportunity to reiterate the impact that recent excise increases have had on brewers, licensees and community pubs. We also highlighted some of the challenges we will face in the year ahead.

"While we support the Government's efforts to restore the country's finances, we believe beer tax is an inefficient way to raise revenue and undermines growth and investment."

COMMENT

ALTHOUGH it sounds like the plot of an awful B-movie, cookies are on course to change the world as we know it.

The text files, as opposed to the delicious baked treats, are at the centre of a new privacy law that could have serious implications for e-commerce websites.

Under the new ruling, all online adverts will have to include an icon requesting permission to use cookies – which stores details such as user-names and passwords.

It is unclear how users will respond to this request. But if the suspicious, scam-fearing public refuses to accept the cookie terms, it will have a huge knock-on effect; if click-throughs from the advert to the advertisers' websites fall dramatically, then the amount they are willing to pay the host sites will soon head in the same direction.

This will in turn affect the profitability of e-commerce websites, many of which already struggle to balance the books. In short, the cookies case may force e-companies to readdress their online presence.

If advertising revenue falls away, then they may be left with no choice but to introduce a pay wall – a model adopted by both The Daily Telegraph and News Of The World newspapers – to pass the cost on to their consumers... or close down entirely.

The times they are e-changing.

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Follow us on Twitter @KOSbusiness

In short, the cookies case may force e-companies to readdress their online presence

Scheme helps you harness the sun's power – for free

TWO Secret Millionaires have rolled their free solar-panel deal out across Kent.

Freetricity colleagues Paul Williams and Ben Way – who have both appeared on Channel 4's hit TV show – are offering homeowners the chance to go green for free.

The pair's eco-energy deal sees Freetricity install and maintain the solar panels at no cost to the homeowner, taking the Government's Feed in Tariff (FiT) as payment.

This novel approach has made solar panels more financially viable to residents, who were traditionally faced with a big initial outlay sum and costly maintenance bills.

Freetricity chief executive Paul Williams said: "I'm a great believer in the importance of looking after the environment and I'm delighted that we are able to offer this great deal. By going green with Freetricity you could reduce your electricity bills by around 40 per cent. There really are no catches."

Chief technical officer Ben Way said: "This really is a fantastic offer for homeowners in this area. We launched in Surrey a couple of weeks ago, and this deal has been so popular we decided to start rolling out the business across the South East so that others could benefit.

"Freetricity have had a financial vote of confidence from Lombard Finance, who have backed us to the tune of £10 million. In addition, we have set up a partnership with AVC Group for installation – one of the largest, most reliable and reputable installers in the business who are working in 2,500 homes across the UK every day.

"We are the only solar company in this part of the country able to offer completely free installation and maintenance with no cost to the homeowner. It really is a case of sign up before it's too late."

• See www.freetricity.net for more details about the offer.

FREE: Ben Way and Paul Williams will install and maintain your solar panels

Location is everything as confidence grows

LOCATE in Kent helped more than 70 companies relocate, set up or expand into the county in 2010-11.

The investment support agency's year-end figures show a total of 73 successes, resulting in the creation of 2,588 new, retained and indirect jobs.

The Thames Gateway welcomed the lion's share of new companies, with 40 per cent of the total figure.

Medway attracted the highest number of companies (15), while Swale took the biggest share of new jobs created (383).

The vast majority of companies setting up home in Kent were UK-based (82 per cent), but Locate in Kent also helped 13 overseas businesses move into the county.

These include logistics firm GBA Services, which set up its South East distribution hub in Ashford, and German solar-energy specialist SunConcept, which opened its first UK subsidiary in Kings Hill.

Locate in Kent chairman Sir Brandon Gough said he was pleased with the agency's results.

"It's been another challenging year for businesses, but it's encouraging to see such a good number of companies still expanding, relocating and starting up in Kent and Medway – and we're here to help them do that as easily as possible," he said.

The agency had 312 'active' projects at year-end, up from 304 in 2010-11.

KCC leader Paul Carter said: "There continues to be a lot of confidence in the county as a business location.

"The recent news that Danish company Vestas plan to build a wind turbine manufacturing facility at Sheerness re-establishes the fact that the area represents an excellent opportunity for investors."

Eco-dating site helps sow the seeds of love

A DATING website has been set up in a bid to help eco-enthusiasts find the soilmates.

The site – ecolovers.co.uk – is the brainchild of Nick Shread, from Maidstone, who launched the online business in April after becoming inspired while spending time on his new allotment.

He said: "About a year ago, my partner Linda and I had secured an allotment space. I realised how welcoming the community was among fellow allotment-holders.

"Then I became aware there were a lot of single people among them.

"I got to thinking, it would be fantastic to help people with a love of the world around them to find a like-minded partner — and so ecolovers.co.uk was born.

"Since it was launched in April, the site has proved to be a great success."

ECO-FRIENDLY: Nick and Linda want to help others find love

The site is aimed at environmentally-conscious single people who are looking for a partner with a similar eco-friendly outlook on life.

Members range from those who recycle things in the house, all the way through to those who are living the 'Good Life', running smallholdings and organic farms.

Monthly membership fees to new sign-ups will be cut to mark National Recycle Week.

To take advantage of the ecolovers.co.uk offer, you can sign up using the RECYCLEWEEK promotional code.

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Kent Business School

The driven MD who thinks globally with data storage

The BIG Interview

Document Warehouse managing director Ryan Hughes speaks to Business Week editor Simon Robinson about his plans to set up sites across the UK before taking on the markets of Brazil, Europe and Asia.

STORAGE: Document Warehouse offers a space-saving solution

LIKE the Romans and the Normans before them, the Document Warehouse has arrived in Kent and is looking at conquering our green and pleasant land.

Having set up home in a 3.6-acre site in Ashford, the South African archive/data-handling firm is already looking at marching north.

Managing director Ryan Hughes said: "We aim at having national coverage within the next 36 months. We're looking at opening a site in or near Birmingham, one up between Manchester and Liverpool and another between Glasgow and Edinburgh – giving us national coverage up the spine of the country."

The company hopes to create some 400 jobs in the process, half of which will be based at its Kent headquarters, but its primary objective is to introduce its offerings to the UK.

Hughes said: "The UK market is predominantly reactive in its approach to document archiving compared with South Africa.

"South African businesses have become accustomed to outsourcing and rely on document storage solution-driven companies to offer a vast array of products and services to them.

"In the UK we have found customers only approach us for document archiving for compliance reasons"

"We're currently focusing on offering the traditional archiving services as companies are only requesting archiving boxes, and we have to compete on that level.

"Once we have built up a relationship with them, we can then inform them about our other products and services to extend our business services and hopefully challenge the market."

The company started out as an office-relocation service in South Africa – moving everything from sensitive data and computer systems to desks from one place to another – but branched out into archiving as most of its customers looked to offload boxes of old, yet at times required, information.

It was not long before data management became more important to the business than data storage.

Hughes explained: "We soon realised that anyone can store documents – it's the retrieval that needs special care. So we made the decision to sell off the logistics side of the business and concentrate solely on document storage.

"Our USP is that we offer more products and services in the management of our customers' information from creation to destruction, on-site and off-site.

"We have found that off-site archival storage is almost a secondary focus area for us. On-site we offer and install our own bespoke computer systems we have designed and developed, which includes a full track-and-trace accountability system. We offer a mailroom service to create a paperless environment for our customers, along with a full scanning bureau.

"We also offer outsourced staffing on-site for larger customers, so we effectively run their archives in-house for them, or alternatively we fully train our customers to effect and create functional file plans for their companies.

"It's this diverse range of products and services that sets us apart from our competitors as we offer a full range of business services all under one roof. It's a full turnkey solution."

This all-encompassing model has taken the Document Warehouse across South Africa, a total of seven sites, into neighbouring African countries, the Middle East and Australia.

Hughes said: "Moving into the UK was a calculated risk. With it being such a large capital outlay, we would never have done it if everything wasn't perfect.

"But we feel the market has got huge potential. Just looking at the size of the market, there are 4.7 million SMEs in the UK – we don't have that many businesses in total in South Africa. So if we could convert 5 per cent of the UK market, it would double our South African turnover.

"And we've just won the largest Government contract awarded so far this year, which has given us the boost we needed.

"We feel confident that, by winning this contact, our expectations for the UK market have been correct.

"Regarding future global growth potential, we would like to enter the Brazilian market, across Europe and into Asia within the next six years.

"We're happy with what we've done in the southern hemisphere – it's now time to expand in the north."

South African-born Hughes said he had to adapt to the British approach to conducting business.

"Business is business everywhere you are in the world, but it's the etiquette here that's slightly different," he said. "In South Africa we're a very forward nation, very straight to the point, very direct.

"In the UK there's a lot more finesse, conversation and relationship-building needed before we are able to get down to business.

"In South Africa it's more 'What's your bottom line and when can you get it done by?'.

"So to a certain degree we've had to adapt to that UK culture, but at the same time we don't want to lose our drive."

Hughes also had to adapt to the weather, moving from the sun-baked South African climate to the rain and cold weather of the winter months in England.

Diplomatically, Hughes said: "The weather doesn't really bother me. I was taught there's no such thing as inappropriate weather, only inappropriate clothing.

"I grasped that concept very quickly."

RENEWABLES

Science park in green deal

KENT Science Park has gone green thanks to a renewable sources agreement.

The Sittingbourne business park, which is home to 1,200 employees and 60 businesses, will receive 100 per cent of its electricity from Scottish and Southern Energy's (SSE) wind farms or hydro-electric plants.

KSP facilities manager Stephen Moore said: "It is extremely satisfying to be able to say that all the park's power is renewable.

"But we are still looking at ways in which our energy production could be even cleaner, including the possibility of producing our own power on site, using technology developed by scientists working here."

Site director James Speck said: "I'm very happy that we've reached this significant agreement with SSE. Of course, apart from using cleaner, renewable sources, our ultimate goal is to use less energy – that's the real long-term challenge."

KSP consumes more than 11 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity each year. SSE is the UK's largest provider of renewably-sourced energy.

FINANCE

Keep ahead at breakfast club

A NEW quarterly business breakfast club aimed at Kent's business leaders is set to hold its inaugural meeting next month.

FaB – finance and business – will focus on developments and opportunities relating to tax, accounting, employment and other financial aspects of running a company.

McBrides tax partner Terry Baldwin said: "The aim is to keep CEOs, MDs and FDs ahead of the game and up to speed with changing legislation in an informal and friendly atmosphere, where they can network with like-minded colleagues."

Topics include Inland Revenue developments in relation to countering tax-avoidance schemes and proposals to limit tax concessions on company strike-offs.

The meeting will be held at McBrides Accountants, Cray Road, Sidcup, on Wednesday, July 13, from 8am to 9.30am.

Membership is free but limited to 40 places.

For more information, email shirley.caddock@mcbridesllp.com.

LETTINGS

How to avoid bad tenants

LANDLORDS are being invited to an open-house educational and networking event at Medway Council's Gun Wharf offices next week.

The one-day exhibition, taking place on Saturday, June 25, will provide private landlords with the advice and guidance they need to make a success of their lettings business.

Steve Barnes from NLA Property Insurance will start the seminar sessions at 10am and ask landlords whether they have the right insurance cover. Paul Shamplina, of Landlord Action, will follow with advice on how to avoid a bad tenant.

Tim Crook, from Housing Law Services, will give advice on assured shorthold tenancies – the default tenancy agreement for most landlords.

National Landlords Association representative Marion Money will make the welcome address at 10am and then answer questions.

Advice on arranging leases for properties and information on gas safety will be available.

More than 20 trade stands will be set up at the event, which runs from 10am to 3pm.

RACE CAR: The SP/300.R will be hand-built, it has a top speed of 180mph, and it is priced at £60,000

Caterham races to expand workshop

SPECIALIST car manufacturer Caterham has expanded its Dartford operations to build its latest high-performance model.

The lightweight sportscar-maker has taken on adjoining premises to its long-time Kennet Road workshop to hand-build the new £60,000 SP/300.R prototype.

Up to 50 of the Le Mans-style race cars – the first new Caterham model for 15 years – will be shipped out of the new custom-fitted garage before the year is out.

Half of these sleek and powerful vehicles, armed with 300bhp and a top speed of 180mph, are expected to be exported across the globe.

Caterham motorsport manager Simon Lambert said the new facility was needed as it would be unfeasible to build the SP/300.R in the same workshop as its legendary road car, the Seven.

"The Dartford factory is bursting at the seams with Seven production and is unsuitable for the single-cell build environment that a high-specification race car needs," he said.

"When the opportunity to take on some more space in a neighbouring unit came up, we jumped at the chance.

"As a result, the SP/300.R will be built in Unit 4 Kennet Road in a newly-equipped facility currently being prepared, giving us the advantage of being on site with our engineering and purchasing teams."

Racing drivers and track-day enthusiasts can get their hands on the new model at a series of taster sessions due to be held later this year.

Customers who have already placed orders will be given priority booking slots, after which the extensive list of people who have registered an interest with Caterham will be offered one of the strictly limited drives.

To book a test drive on one of the available dates, phone 01883 333700 or 01455 841616. See www.caterham.co.uk for more information.

RACE DAYS

Saturday, August 27, at Donington Park

Wednesday, September 7, at Donington Park

Thursday, September 15, at Snetterton

Wednesday, September 21, at Donington Park

Young mechanics build on their studies with practical learning

MOTORSPORT students spent six months painstakingly building a Caterham Seven sportscar.

Six K College mechanics in the making – aged between 17 and 25 – undertook the difficult project as part of their BTEC diploma.

Lecturer Andrew Joyce, who runs the course at the college's Tunbridge Well campus, said: "This project has given the students a taste of the working environment, helping them transfer their theoretical knowledge and skills into practical reality.

"First-hand experience like this is vital, especially in today's competitive job market."

Caterham's marketing director Andy Noble added: "Caterham has always been about experiencing cars first-hand, not just looking at them.

CONSTRUCTIVE: The students built their own Caterham Seven

"It's great to see the students get passionate about a project that brings learning to life.

"If we can help students believe in themselves and reach their potential, then that's an added bonus."

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Thanet Business World

Kent Office Solutions

Cookies ruling could slim e-commerce revenues

By Simon Robinson
simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

A NEW user privacy law could have serious implications for online businesses, according to a Kent website developer.

The new Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations, which recently came into force in the UK, will make cookies – which store information such as shopping cart details, viewing history and preferences – more visible.

Orpington-based Ecce Media's Brant McNaughton said these new rules could have a negative knock-on effect on advertising revenues.

"Under the new rules, an icon will be required to appear on the advert in question requesting permission to use cookies. Just how invasive these requests will be to users is unclear," he said. "The downside of this will be the possible reluctance of big advertisers to continue to fund advertising campaigns on the current scale if they are rendered somewhat impotent. This may lead to a reduction in the revenues a website brings in through displaying adverts – which may affect the profitability of e-commerce websites."

The rules do not require websites to obtain consent from the user in the case of cookies that relate directly to the provision of a service explicitly requested by the user. This caveat means that the average e-commerce website will not have to change its general nuts-and-bolts operation.

Brant said: "As most e-commerce websites detail the use of cookies to manage and run the shopping cart in their terms and conditions, little, if anything, will have to change to comply with the new ruling.

"The new law states that you must now inform visitors to your website when cookies are used and for what purpose.

"But businesses that rely on advertising on their websites for revenue will no doubt have concerns, and consumers will be hoping these costs won't be passed on to them."

OUT OF THE JAR: The new ruling means website-users have to be alerted to cookies, which Ecce Media's Brant McNaughton says could negatively affect advertising revenues

WELCOME: Patrick McGrath has joined Girlings

New face strengthens commercial offerings

GIRLINGS law firm has made a new addition to its growing commercial department.

Experienced corporate and commercial solicitor Patrick McGrath has joined the law firm's Stourside Place offices in Ashford.

The 46-year-old said: "Girlings has a substantial and experienced commercial and corporate team and, based in the heart of Kent, is well placed to advise businesses looking to set up or expand in an area rich in resources, skills and opportunities."

Mr McGrath qualified in 1989 and has previously worked with major law firms in north Kent and London.

Senior partner Christopher Page, who heads the Girlings corporate and commercial department, said: "Patrick's considerable expertise and experience will further strengthen the team and the range of specialist services we offer local and regional businesses."

Conveyancing firm put its stamp on a quality service

FURLEY Page has been accredited as a member of the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme.

The firm, which has offices in Canterbury, Whitstable and Chatham, secured membership after coming through a rigorous assessment of its residential-home-buying procedures.

Myfanwy McDonagh, partner and head of residential property at Furley Page, said: "CQS status is recognition of the high standards we provide to our residential property clients and is a signal to future home-buyers of the excellent service level, and commitment to our clients, that we offer at what is often a stressful time for many people.

"House-buyers who use Furley Page have the peace of mind of knowing they will receive a reliable, efficient service as recognised by the CQS standard."

PARTNER: Myfanwy McDonagh

Law Society president Linda Lee said CQS improved efficiency with consistent standards and service levels and enables consumers to recognise practices that provide a quality residential conveyancing service.

"Buying a home is one of the largest purchases anyone will make in their life, so it is essential that it is done to the highest standard by a solicitor," she said.

"There are many different conveyancing-service-providers, making it difficult for home-buyers to identify those which can ensure a safe and efficient level of service."

The scheme requires practices to undergo a strict assessment, compulsory training, self-reporting, random audits and annual reviews to maintain CQS status.

It is open only to members of the Law Society and to those who meet the demanding standards the scheme will set and has the support of the Council Of Mortgage Lenders, the Building Societies Association, Legal Ombudsman and the Association Of British Insurers.

To date, more than 1,000 law companies across England and Wales have applied for accreditation, but just 240 have successfully met the Law Society's high acceptance standards.

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Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Tutors strike a green deal for environment

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

COURSES including solar panel fixing and home insulation are to be offered as part of a commitment to help deliver the Government's Green Deal.

Canterbury Christ Church University and Thanet College have teamed up to help train local people in the skills necessary to support the programme, which offers financial incentives to householders and businesses in return for them improving the energy efficiency of their buildings.

South Thanet MP Laura Sandys (Con) said: "By re-fitting our most inefficient housing stock with energy-saving devices, the Green Deal has the potential to create up to 250,000 jobs.

"However, the UK will need to develop a workforce with real expertise and skills in the renewable sector if it is to realise its environmental ambitions.

"There is no doubt that, as leaders of higher education provision, Thanet College and Canterbury Christ Church are best placed to develop the regional skills capacity.

"We in Thanet need to tap into this emerging green market as Thanet is the ideal regional hub for the Green Deal. By benefiting from the opportunities attached to the Government's green policies, we can help local people into employment and boost Thanet's economic growth and productivity."

In addition to solar panel fixing and home insulation, the proposed new courses will also cover the skills needed to regenerate many listed and historic buildings in the area.

Conservative MP John Hayes – the minister for further education, skills and lifelong learning – visited Thanet earlier this month to learn more about the partnership.

He said: "It is encouraging to see institutions working together to respond to local needs and deliver the Green Deal.

"We are keen to ensure future generations have the right skills to take advantage of the opportunities of the green economy, which will support growth and jobs.

"The Government is committed to delivering a further education system that responds more effectively and efficiently to the needs of learners, employers and local communities, nurturing sustainable growth and social renewal."

The Energy Bill introduced to Parliament last December includes provision for the new Green Deal, which is intended to revolutionise the energy efficiency of British properties.

The Government is establishing a framework to enable private firms to offer consumers energy efficiency improvements to their homes, community spaces and businesses at no upfront cost.

The east Kent meeting was held at Thanet College and was also attended by Ms Sandys, Thanet council leader Cllr Bob Bayford and representatives from the Skills Funding Agency and the Institute for Sustainability.

College vice-principal Dr Andrew Gower said: "We are delighted to be working even more closely with Canterbury Christ Church University to deliver new courses to provide new skills and opportunities for tomorrow's students.

"The visit provided an opportunity to share with the minister the active ways in which Thanet College is meeting the further education skills and training needs of east Kent, by working in partnership with an extensive array of employers."

David Smith, pro vice-chancellor (external relations) at Canterbury Christ Church, added: "We would like to thank the minister for taking the time to meet with us and hear our exciting and innovative plans for the future of east Kent further and higher education.

"Both institutions already deliver courses that enable many local people to pursue careers in our essential public services and regional businesses, which inevitably help to regenerate our communities.

"We are very excited to be developing our partnership and to draw on our joint resources to provide new opportunities to further develop a local skilled workforce."

SUPPORT: David Smith, Andrew Gower, John Hayes, Laura Sandys and Cllr Bob Bayford

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.

Volunteers help entrepreneurs

TRIBUTE was paid to 30 volunteers for their work with the Kent Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs.

Kent County Council chairwoman Cllr Paulina Stockell hosted an afternoon tea last week, when she congratulated the team for investing more than 2,000 hours of their time over the past year.

Cllr Stockell said: "We wanted to join the celebration of national Volunteers' Week here in Kent and highlight the special contributions volunteers make to the work of the Kent Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs."

The Kent Foundation was founded in 1985 with the aim of ensuring young people receive the support they need to be successful in starting and growing a business.

Director Paul Barron said: "Volunteering for Kent Foundation is more about quality than doing something for free.

"The Foundation is recognised for having high standards and quality services, which cannot be achieved without the voluntary commitment of so many people in the county."

Visit www.kentfoundation.org for more information on the charity's work.

Building firm shows support

MARGATE firm Chandlers Building Supplies helped in the search for the talent of the future by sponsoring the bricklaying section of SkillBuild 2011.

The competition, which was open to colleges across the South East, challenged students to show off their construction abilities while being marked in areas such as accuracy and use of materials.

Chandlers offered bricklaying tools for the young people who finished first, second and third, with Thanet College student Darren Wiltshire coming second in the 'new entrant brickwork' category.

Chandlers commercial director Richard Skinner said: "The SkillBuild competition offers students a fantastic opportunity to show off their bricklaying ability, and we were delighted to be able to support the event. It's important to acknowledge the skills of young people."

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Range of new qualifications could help you gain an edge over the rest

THE Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has added seven new specialisms to its range of qualifications.

AssocRICS is the organisation's new technical level professional qualification geared towards those with experience and expertise who want to demonstrate competence in their chosen field.

The new specialisms are in residential property management; building surveying; building control; valuation; land and engineering surveying; hydrographic surveying; and commercial property.

RICS South East spokeswoman Clare Montague said: "Development activity is still strong in Kent but with many businesses putting promotions on hold and pay freezes in place because of the challenging economic climate, candidates with the AssocRICS accreditation are likely to find they have a real competitive edge over others in the industry. Therefore there are big advantages in career progression and new opportunities.

"This unique qualification provides a whole new range of professionals working within the industry the way to gain a recognised, world-leading accreditation and access the many resources and learning opportunities that the world's leading body can offer."

Visit www.ricsassociate.org for more information on how to sign up.

Students are in good shape after MidKent

A SURVEY of former MidKent College students has revealed that a high proportion progress to higher education or employment in the year after their training.

Conducted on 1,296 learners at the start of 2011, the report shows that 88.41 per cent of those who left the college last July have already secured employment, completed a gap year or re-enrolled at another college or university.

The overall findings of the survey indicate that student destinations for the college are "outstanding" as advised by the Framework for Excellence.

A further 56 students (four per cent) were classed as having a "neutral destination", including those who are caring for a family member, temporarily sick or disable, doing voluntary work or not needing to work.

Spokeswoman Heather Collingwood said the results would be unsurprising for those who work at the college.

She added: "We do our best to keep in contact with our former students so we know they often move on to some pretty impressive things.

"Just last week we learned that one of our most recent leavers, Ben Brice, has secured work as a chef at Claridge's Hotel in Mayfair, London.

"This is an incredible achievement for someone who has only just finished his course in hospitality and catering. Ben's lecturers are very proud of him."

Eighteen-year-old Ben, from Hoo, near Rochester, began work at the five-star hotel last Month. He was previously photographed alongside celebrity chef Richard Phillips (above) when he opened the college's Pavilion restaurant earlier this year.

Meanwhile, college students attended a higher education fair in Medway with the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church and the Open University among the exhibitors.

Held at MidKent's Medway campus, they were able to find out more about university courses, accommodation, student finance and UCAS.

SUCCESS: Chefs Richard Phillips and Ben Brice

Charity offers CV enhancements with British Sign Language course

A CHARITY supporting deaf people will be starting a new British Sign Language course later this month.

The Level 1.01 course offered by Hi Kent is the first or introductory stage of a three part course, and will run on Monday mornings for six weeks at a cost of £99 per person including end-of-course assessment fee.

Levels 1.02 and 1.03 will follow on at a cost of £120 each.

Course co-ordinator Naomi Lemar said: "Knowing British Sign Language is an extra skill many employers look for, so it can help people to find jobs.

"It can make a great addition to a person's CV and students will be taught in a friendly group by a qualified BSL tutor with a great track record."

Hi Kent provides information, assessment and provision of equipment to deaf and hard of hearing people, including resource centres to view equipment, and lipreading support groups.

Established since 1986, the charity also runs a network of more than 200 hearing aid aftercare clinics in towns, villages and communities all over the county

The first British Sign Language course session will be held at Hi Kent's head office at 18 Brewer Street, Maidstone, on Monday, June 27.

Call 01622 691151 or email enquiries@hikent.org.uk for more information.

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Training Solutions

Professional Development Courses planned June-July 2011

Course Title	Start Date	Duration	Price
JUNE 2011			
Introduction to Anxiety and Mood Disorders	21 June	Half day	£24
Safeguarding Children	23 June	One day	£55
Introduction to Dyspraxia Awareness	28 June	Half day	£24
Introduction to Autistic Spectrum Disorders	29 June	Half day	£24
JULY 2011			
Behaviour Management	5 July	Half day	£24
Effective Strategies for working with ASD Students	6 July	Half day	£24
Assertiveness Training	13 July	Half day	£24

For further information please contact:
The Training Solutions Team
Tel: 01843 821580
training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk
www.thanet.ac.uk

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- MySQL experience

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For job description and application form please contact:

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Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

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SUPPORT WORKERS

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SUPPORT WORKERS

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Dave Humphrey, Works Manager, Kentec Electronics Ltd Unit 25-27 Fawkes Avenue, Dartford Trade Park Dartford, Kent DA1 1JQ or email: **dave@kentec.co.uk**

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The Sittingbourne Community College

Daring to be different!
The Specialist College for Arts, Sport and Engineering

One of the most rapidly improving schools in Kent.
5+ A-C English & Maths from 27% to 58%
and 5+ A-C from 60% to 65% in the last 3 years.
Roll increased from 966 to 1,400 in 5 years (including 300 in Post 16 Centre).

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2011 OR ASAP

EXPERIENCED TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS
To teach academic sets and A Level.
Salary negotiable - approx £35k.
ALSO
GRADUATE TRAINEE TEACHER FOR MATHEMATICS
Over 30 staff have been trained to Qualified Teacher Status in the last 3 years.

Join a very successful department of Maths and work with a new young Head of Learning.
Excellent Professional Development opportunities.

Committed to Child Protection and Safety.
Post subject to Enhanced CRB Disclosure.

For further details please contact Mrs Debbie Myers, Personnel Officer, on 01795 473448 or email debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

To apply, please send your letter of application and CV to Alan Barham, Headteacher, or email to debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

CLOSING DATE: 30-6-11

The Sittingbourne Community College
Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NL
Tel: 01795-473448 Fax: 01795-470032
Email: office@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk

The Sittingbourne Community College

Daring to be different!
The Specialist College for Arts, Sport and Engineering

One of the most rapidly improving schools in Kent.
5+ A-C English & Maths from 27% to 58%
and 5+ A-C from 60% to 65% in the last 3 years.
Roll increased from 966 to 1,400 in 5 years (including 300 in Post 16 Centre).

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2011 OR ASAP

TEACHER OF SCIENCE OR GRADUATE TRAINEE FOR SCIENCE

Join a rapidly improving department of Science to teach GCSE & A Level - All Sciences.
Excellent Professional Development opportunities - 34 staff promoted during the last 3 years.
Salary negotiable.

Committed to Child Protection and Safety.
Post subject to Enhanced CRB Disclosure.

For further details please contact Mrs Debbie Myers, Personnel Officer, on 01795 473448 or email debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

To apply, please send your letter of application and CV to Alan Barham, Headteacher, or email to debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

CLOSING DATE: 30-6-11

The Sittingbourne Community College
Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NL
Tel: 01795-473448 Fax: 01795-470032
Email: office@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk

Good Schools Guide: *A top-notch co-ed school catering for that neglected breed, ordinary children, as well as for the higher flier.*
Independent School of the Year 2010/11 Top UK Boarding School

ASHFORD
750 boys and girls aged 3-18; senior school of 430 pupils with 135 boarders.

Assistant Boarding Staff

Matrons for our three Houses
September 2011

Due to the increasing popularity of boarding and the introduction of a Junior Boarding House from September 2011, we require three Matrons to care for our boarders under the leadership of the Housemaster/mistress.

These are non-teaching posts requiring spilt shift work in the mornings/evenings and at weekends. Previous experience of working with young people in a residential setting is desirable but energy, initiative and a positive disposition are essential alongside excellent home making skills. Single accommodation is provided but we will consider a living out post if you are local to Ashford.

For an application form and further information, please contact Mrs Anne Rylands, Head's PA, Ashford School, East Hill, Ashford, Kent TN24 8PB
Closing date for receipt of applications: Wednesday 22 June 2011 at 12.00 noon.

United Church Schools Trust
The best in everyone

T: 01233 739032 • E: rylandsa@ashfordschool.co.uk
W: www.ashfordschool.co.uk
Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the CRB.

THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

SKILLS PRACTITIONER - PLASTERING

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students and undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies

SALARY SCALE: £8,567 - £10,123 FOR 18.5 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

Closing date for the above post: Wednesday 25th May 2011

CLEANER - TRAINING SOLUTIONS BUSINESS CENTRE X 2

The College is looking to recruit two reliable and thorough cleaners for our new, professional business centre at Manston Business Park. One post is for mornings, one for evenings

SALARY SCALE: £3,457.48 - £3,672.76 FOR 10 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above post: Saturday 2nd July

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination

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THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

FOUNDATION TRANSITION MANAGER

37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR
SALARY SCALE - £33,917 - £38,358

The college is looking to recruit a Foundation Transition Manager to lead the successful implementation of foundation learning across the college and ensure effective transition and integration for all students.

SENIOR TEACHING AND LEARNING FACILITATOR - ENGLISH AND MATHS

37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR
SALARY: £33,917 - £38,358

An exciting and challenging new position is available for the post of Senior Teaching and Learning Facilitator. This person will be responsible for co-ordinating cross-college delivery of GCSE English and Maths and Functional Skills

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Closing date: 3rd July 2011

Job reference: FTM001

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College is passionate about student success. We are seeking to appoint outstanding individuals to teach at our new campus in Medway and our Maidstone Campus.

Programme Area Leader - Beauty Therapy — Ref: P0001

Salary: £26,336 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

We are seeking an exceptional candidate to join our highly successful Services to People Faculty and provide support to the Head of Faculty on all staffing, student, curriculum and quality issues. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a significant level of competence in Teaching and Learning and have good motivational and communication skills. Post holder will hold, be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. This is a great opportunity to join a Grade 1 team dedicated to student success and progression.

Lecturer in Human Resources and Management — Ref: P0422

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
25.9 hours per week • Maidstone

MidKent College has a long history of successfully preparing candidates for the very demanding CIPD national examinations and the rigorous requirements of the CMI programmes. We are now looking for someone who is committed to excellence in teaching to join the team. The successful candidate will have extensive professional experience in HRM and be able to use that experience to enhance their credibility in the classroom. Ideally you will be a Chartered Member of the CIPD but candidates in the final stages of gaining chartered status will also be considered.

Lecturer in Performing Arts - Dance — Ref: M0071

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week • Fixed Term Maternity Cover • Medway Campus

We are looking for a knowledgeable, skilled and inspirational Lecturer to teach Dance within our successful Performing Arts Department. Taking full advantage of the fantastic facilities at our new Medway Campus, the successful candidate will contribute to the development, delivery and teaching of programmes at Levels 2 & 3 and will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Production Arts — Ref: P0510

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week • Medway Campus

We are seeking an experienced and knowledgeable Lecturer to join our Production Arts department. The successful candidate will have an all-round knowledge of the technical elements of theatre and experience of teaching lighting and sound to students in Further or Higher Education. Teaching on our Level 3 Production Arts pathway, they will contribute fully to departmental productions and will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Communication Studies — Ref: P0273

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

We are seeking an inspirational and experienced Lecturer to teach Communication Studies and English with Sociology within the Higher and Academic Studies Faculty. The successful candidate will contribute to the development, delivery and teaching on A level and Access courses and will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification. Full time and part time roles available - please specify your preference on your application form.

Lecturer in Animal Care — Ref: P0141

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic and experienced individual to join our Animal Care Department. They will contribute to the delivery and success of courses from Entry to Level 3, using the excellent facilities available. The successful candidate will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Biology — Ref: P0538

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

We are looking to recruit a skilled Lecturer to contribute to the success of the Higher and Academic Studies Faculty delivering A level, GSCE and Access courses. The ideal candidate will be an inspirational teacher, have a relevant first degree within the subject area and hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Front Line Events Co-ordinator — Ref: P0450

Salary: £15,891 - 19,464 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week • Medway Campus

The MidKent College Frontline customer service programme is a unique, award-winning course giving students first-hand experience of customer service delivery at local and national events. We are seeking an exceptional individual who is able to work flexibly to organise, develop and deliver events and activities with our students. The successful candidate will have a strong track record in an events organisation or a related customer service field. They will understand the importance of personal presentation and be able to develop a strong customer service ethos among students. Excellent communication skills and an ability to work with a variety of people are essential. A teaching, training or customer service qualification is desirable.

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 24 June 2011

Candidates are encouraged to visit the College prior to interview/application. Please contact Human Resources on 01634 383511 to arrange.

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

Teachers Needed

Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

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- ✔ An out-of-hours service

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or email
enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

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Dover College

English as a Foreign Language Teacher

Required for September 2011

We are seeking to recruit a Teacher of EAL to teach pupils from Year 7 up to the 6th Form. Please contact Mrs Vassie Henderson for an application form and full details of the post.

Completed forms, together with a full CV including names and addresses of 2 referees, should be sent to Headmaster's Office, Dover College, Effingham Crescent, Dover, Kent CT17 9RH.

Dover College is an equal opportunity employer. Dover College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and the selected individual will be subject to Criminal records Bureau checks at the enhanced level, in accordance with Child Protection legislation.

Tel: 01304 244 501
Email: vassie@dovercollege.org.uk
www.dovercollege.org.uk

Westlands Academies Trust

THE WESTLANDS SCHOOL
Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, ME10 1PF

LESSON SUPERVISOR

Salary starting at £16,793 rising to £18,471 (pro-rata)
(equal to £12,516 - £13,766 depending on experience)

This post is designed to provide supervision of classes in the absence of the subject teacher or form tutor. The job is not a teaching role but will require good classroom management skills as well as a confident personality, a good presence and excellent communication skills.

Applicants should be well educated, preferably to further education level, and have experience of giving support in the classroom, preferably as a Teaching Assistant, although other qualifications and personal/work experiences will be taken into account.

Employment will start after a one-week paid in-service training course. There will be a six-month probationary period.

8.25am - 3.20pm with 1 hr unpaid breaks, term time only plus 1 staff training day and 25 days paid holiday a year, or as relevant to years of service in a similar post.

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: Wednesday 29 June 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr J Whitcombe MA

Science

Company No 7344732

Maths & Computing

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

FRENSHAM ROAD, ROLVENDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Frensham Road, Rolvenden, on or after 4 July 2011 for up to 7 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the property named Layneside.

The alternative route is via Maytham Road and Winser Road.

GOODCHEAP LANE, HINXHILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Goodcheap Lane, Hinxhill, on or after 4 July 2011 for up to 15 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Blackwall Road, Blackwall, Naccolt Road and Hinxhill Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

BEST LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide new utility services to the Beaney Institute, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Best Lane, Canterbury, on or after 4 July 2011 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed opposite no.10 and the main car park entrance.

The alternative route is via St Peter's Street and The Friars.

Vehicle access to Orange Street Car Park will be via Orange Street.

A further 3-day closure will be needed in September 2011, with the dates to be advised nearer the time.

MINSTER DRIVE, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new waste-water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Minster Drive, Herne Bay, on or after 20 June 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Western Avenue.

The alternative route is via Western Avenue, Sea Street and Albany Drive.

STOUR STREET, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a drainage gully, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stour Street, Canterbury, on or after 5 July 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Rosemary Lane and Hospital Lane.

The alternative route is via Rosemary Lane, Castle Street, Pin Hill, Rhodaus Town, Watling Street and Beer Cart Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(HOLLOW LANE, CANTERBURY)

(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the following effect:-

Adelaide Place	On both sides from the junction with Castle Street for a distance of 24 metres

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined at Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD, and at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury.

If you wish to offer support for, or object to, the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to:

The Transportation and Development Manager, East Kent Area, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

MISKIN ROAD AND SUMMERHILL ROAD, DARTFORD - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Dartford as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 4th July 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last a total of 7 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

Schedule 1

Road Name: Miskin Road, Dartford
Extent: Entire length (physical road closure between Baker Crescent and Summerhill Road)
Diversion:
Northbound - Summerhill Road, Highfield Road, West Hill and Shepherds Lane.

Southbound - Shepherds Lane, West Hill, Highfield Road, Westgate Road, Home Gardens, Overy Liberty, Market Street, Lowfield Street, Instone Road, Highfield Road and Summerhill Road

Road Name: Summerhill Road, Dartford
Extent: Between Trinity Gardens and Highfield Road (one way section)
Diversion: Summerhill Road and Highfield Road

Please note these closures will not be in place at the same time.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement of a gas main.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND

STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 4) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNTIL hereby make the above named order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to:

1. Introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) places on the following roads or lengths of road Schedule No. 5.01 –

Bedford Road	Carleton Road	Carlisle Road
Chastilian Road	Dartford Road	Fawkham Road
Highfield Road	James Road	Leyton Cross Road
Maida Vale Road	Main Road	Mildred Close
Northdown Road	Riverside Way	Rochester Road
Sandpit Road	Southfleet Road	Tredegar Road
Vaughan Close	Whitehill Road	Wilmington Court Road
Wilmot Road		

2. Introduce No waiting Mon-Fri 8am-9.30am and 2.30pm-4pm on Littlebrook Manor Way Schedule No. 6.16
3. Reduction of no waiting any time (double yellow lines) in Tollgate Road

The Order was sealed on the 10th of June 2011 and will come into force on the 11th of June 2011

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR and at Invicta House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

SINGLEDGE LANE, WHITFIELD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of aerial cable repairs and tree cutting, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Singledge Lane, Whitfield, on or after 5 July 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Church Road / Coldred Road and Nursery Lane.

The alternative route is via Coldred Road, The Street, Kennel Hill, Sandwich Road and Nursery Lane.

The closure is between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

VARIOUS ROADS, EASTRY & WOODNESBOROUGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Eastry & Woodnesborough, on or after 4 July 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

STATENBOROUGH LANE, EASTRY will be closed between Poison Cross and Sandwich Road, from 4 July 2011 for up to 3 days.

The alternative route is via Woodnesborough Lane and Sandwich Road

SELSON LANE, WOODNESBOROUGH will be closed between Hammill Road and Denne Court Cottages, from 6 July 2011 for 3 days.

The alternative route is via Hammill Road, Drainless Road, Foxborough Hill and Gore Lane.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)(ONE WAY AND TURNING RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Gravesend as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 4th July 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

Schedule 1

Restriction: One-way operation in a northerly direction only
Road Name: Sun Lane, Gravesend
Extent: Between Portland Avenue and Echo Square
Diversion: Whitehill Road, Sharland Road and Sun Lane

Restriction: One-way operation in a southerly direction only
Road Name: Whitehill Road, Gravesend
Extent: Between Echo Square and Laurel Avenue
Diversion: Whitehill Road, Sharland Road and Sun Lane

Restriction: Short-term Temporary Road Closures
Road Name: Whitehill Road Gravesend
Extent: Between Echo Square and St Marys Close
Diversion: Old Road East, Devonshire Road, Central Avenue, Portland Avenue, Sun Lane and Sharland Road

Restriction: Temporary Road Closure
Road Name: Cross Lane East, Gravesend
Extent: From Echo Square to a point 35m to the west
Diversion: Devonshire Road and Old Road East

Restriction: No Right/Left Turn
Road Name 1: No Right Turn from St Marys Close, Gravesend
Road Name 2: No Right Turn from Coombe Road, Gravesend
Road Name 3: No Left Turn from Canterbury Road, Gravesend

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate traffic management arrangements for the Echo Square, Gravesend Road Safety and Environmental Improvements Scheme.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (SYMONDS LANE, YALDING)

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Symonds Lane outside Pear Paddock on or after Monday 20th June 2011 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via B2162 Benover Road/Lees Road, Lees Road.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for a new gas supply. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Amy Colvin on 01689 881315.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE)

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY AND NO ENTRY ORDER)

TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that µbecause works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Week Street, outside of 91 on or after Monday 20th June 2011 when required for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete. The one way order on Week Street between Station Road (northern most section) to St Faith's Street and the no entry from St Faith's Street on to Week Street are temporary suspended during the closure to allow for access.

The alternative route is via Station Road, St. Faith's Street and Week Street.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new gas supply. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Amy Colvin on 01689 881315.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)

(PROHIBITION OF PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS)

(VARIATION NO. 2) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Orders under sections 1 (1) 2 (1) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1) 45, 46, 49, and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The Order is necessary for safety reasons and will make stopping on the 'School Keep Clear' zig zag markings on the following lengths of road from Mondays to Fridays from 8.00am to 9.00am and from 14.30pm to 15.30pm an infringement which may be dealt with by the issue of a penalty charge notice.

1. Beaconsfield Road (North/South Arm) Tovil - East Side
   From a point 32 metres north of its junction with Church Road for a distance of 38 metres in a northerly direction.
2. Eccleston Road, Tovil - West Side
   From a point 37 metres north of the junction with Tovil Road for a distance of 32 metres in a northerly direction.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations in writing to the Transport and Development Manager Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD by 12 noon on 11th July 2011.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)
(PROHIBITION OF WAITING)
AMENDMENT 7 ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1 (1) 2 (1) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1) 45, 46, 49, and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The Order will amend the Kent County Council (Borough of Maidstone) Waiting Restrictions Consolidation 2008 Order by introducing no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road in Maidstone:

Beaconsfield Road (North/South Arm)
West
From a point 30m north of its junction with Church Road for a distance of 30m in a northerly direction

Beaconsfield Road (North/South Arm)
East
From a point 15m north of its junction with Church Road for a distance of 10m in a northerly direction

Eccleston Road
East
From a point 25m north of the junction with Tovil Road for its entire length.

Eccleston Road
West
From a point 25m north of the junction with Tovil Road for a distance of 12 m in a northerly direction

From a point 69m north of the junction with Tovil Road for its entire length and to include the new school refuse collection area

Stafford Gardens
Both Sides
From the junction with Eccleston Road for a distance of 6m in an easterly direction

Cornhill Place
Both Sides
From the junction with Eccleston Road for a distance of 6m in an easterly direction

Arundel Square
Both Sides
From the junction with Eccleston Road for a distance of 6m in an easterly direction

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations in writing to the Transport and Development Manager Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD by 12 noon on 11th July 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

µSUSSEX ROAD, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sussex Road, Folkestone, on or after 4 July 2011 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Foord Road North.

The alternative route is via Foord Road North, Sussex Road and Bradstone Avenue.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

A233 BEGGARS LANE, WESTERHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on A233 Beggars Lane, Westerham between A25 Westerham Road and London Road.

The Order will become effective on 4th July 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to commence 9th July 2011 and last for 2 days.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: A25 High Street Westerham and London Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway resurfacing.

CARTERS HILL (MILL LANE), SEAL - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Carters Hill (Mill Lane), Seal outside property called Tumbling Bay.

The Order will become effective on 4th July 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 5 days.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Underriver House Road and Carters Hill

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new electric supply.

CHIPSTEAD LANE, RIVERHEAD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Chipstead Lane, Riverhead between Cape House and A25 Worships Hill. The one way traffic order on Chipstead Lane, Riverhead from its junction with Barnfield Road to the start of the temporary road closure will be rescinded for the duration of this order for access.

The Order will become effective on 20th June 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 4 days.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Witches Lane and A25 Worships Hill

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate electrical cable fault.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

LUTON ROAD, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Luton Road, Faversham, on or after 20 June 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Minster Road.

There is no alternative route.

The One-way Traffic Orders in respect of Luton Road and Minster Road (between the junctions with Luton Road and Westgate Road) will be suspended to allow access up to the point of closure.

MONKSHILL ROAD, HERNHILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the safe replacement of an electricity pole, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Monkshill Road, Hernhill, on or after 4 July 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Graveney Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via Seasalter Road, Head Hill Road, A299 Thanet Way and High Street Road.

The planned work times are between 8.30 am and 5.00 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours. It is hoped the works can be completed in 1 day.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

ASHBURNHAM ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ashburnham Road, Ramsgate, on or after 20 June 2011 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Southwood Road to the end of the cul-de-sac.

The alternative route is via A255 High Street St Lawrence and Chapel Road.

There is no alternative route whilst the section beyond the junction with Chapel Road is closed, but every effort will be made to maintain access for residents whenever it is safe to do so.

A255 ST PETER'S ROAD / THE BROADWAY, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A255 St Peter's Road / The Broadway, Broadstairs, on or after 6 July 2011 for up to 2 evenings or until the works have been completed.

It is planned that these works will be carried out between 7.00 pm and 11.00 pm each evening, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Edge End Road and St Peter's Park Road.

The alternative route is via A255 Broadstairs Road, Fairfield Road, Bromstone Road, A255 Ramsgate Road, Gladstone Road, Seafield Road, Osbourne Road and The Broadway

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A26 QUARRY HILL ROAD VIADUCT (NORTHBOUND, TONBRIDGE) (18 TONNE WEIGHT RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by traffic in excess of 18 tonnes should be prohibited on the A26 Quarry Hill Viaduct (Northbound) on or after Monday 4th July 2011 when required for a period of up to 18 months or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via the A21 London bound, U turn at Morley's Interchange, A21 Hastings bound, second exit at Vauxhall Roundabout, A2014 Pembury Road.

Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald for the Highways Agency apologise for any inconvenience caused by this prohibition that has become necessary following a structural investigation of the viaduct. For further information or comment please call Parameshwar Jagalur on 0203 4332000.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ

Dated 17th June 2011

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Devils Kneading Trough Restaurant, Wye Downs, Hastingleigh, Ashford**

Applicant: **Ms Carol Tamplin**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration,
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1X

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817044

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Borough of Swale

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR259

IN THE PARISH OF LYNSTED WITH KINGSDOWN

(Public Footpath ZR259 in the Parish of Lynsted with Kingsdown)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath ZR259 between NGR TQ 946 619, the rear of Batteries Close and NGR TQ 947 622, approximately 300 metres south of the A2 from the 1st July 2011.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 1st October 2011.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is approximately 20 metres to the east running parallel to the original line of the path and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact:
Michael Ellis
Tel: (01303) 814534 ext 209

Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

NOTICE OF MAKING OF PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENT

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 25

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (LAND ALONGSIDE THE WEST MALLING BYPASS, KENT) PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENTS

The above named agreements, made on 11th February 2011 under section 25 of the Highways Act 1980, have been made by the Kent County Council. Their effect is to:

Create a new length of Bridleway with a width of 4 metres running between the A20 and Public Footpath MR133;

Upgrade part of the existing Public Footpath MR133 to Bridleway status; and

Upgrade the whole length of Public Footpath MR596 to Bridleway status.

Copies of the Public Path Creation Agreements and accompanying plans have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Kent County Council's Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies may also be purchased there.

Under section 25 of the Highways Act 1980, there is no right of objection and the Agreements have taken immediate effect.

For further information, please contact
Miss Melanie McNeir
Tel:01622 221628.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XX **Dated: 17th June 2011**

The above notice may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817044

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/0293/N - THE BLACK HORSE INN, PILGRIMS WAY, THURNHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3LD - Single storey extension to south elevation of existing outbuilding to provide family/meeting room for use in conjunction with existing letting accommodation. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0627/S - HEADCORN AERODROME, SHENLEY ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9HX - Variation of condition 7 of MA/77/1559 to hold an aerial display on 13th & 14th August 2011, to include Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, one Mustang, The Tiger Club, Turb Team, the Bi-wing Formation, in total 6 sorties each day. **Reason: 7, 10**

MA/11/0723/N - THE PINES, SUTTON STREET, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4HP - Erection of three outbuildings. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0726/N - ST LUKE'S CENTRE, 33, FOLEY STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5BD - Amendments to planning permission MA/10/1111 (Change of use from Builder's Head Office to Church and Community use (Class D1 Use) including replacement of existing extension and external alterations). **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0762/S - 1, WESTBROOK, MILL STREET, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0ED - Application for listed building consent for the installation of a replacement front door. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0769/S - LAND TO THE EAST OF BERESFORD COTTAGE, THE QUARRIES, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, KENT - Creation of a patio area to the rear of new dwelling including retaining wall. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/0773/S - LAND REAR OF LADY JANE PUB, CHURCH GREEN, MARDEN, KENT - Outline application for the erection of 8no. dwellings, with occupation limited to over 55 years old, including access, parking and associated works with access and scale to be considered at this stage with all other matters reserved for future consideration. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/0784/N - 27, FREMLIN WALK, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QG - Installation of new shopfront. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/0799/N - LYNCH BANK FARM BARN, DETLING HILL, DETLING, KENT, ME14 3EX - Demolition of existing barn, outbuilding and concrete bunker and erection of an office building. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/0815/S - 2, THE BUNGALOWS, CHURCH STREET, TESTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 5AH - Erection of a replacement garage. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/0833/N - 86, BANK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SD - An application for listed building consent for the installation of 1No. externally illuminated fascia sign and 1No. non-illuminated projecting hanging sign to the front elevation. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0840/S - LAKE HOUSE, IDEN PARK, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0ES - Erection of single storey extension. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0841/S - LAKE HOUSE, IDEN PARK, CRANBROOK ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0ES - An application for listed building consent for the erection of a single storey extension. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0845/S - LIME HOUSE, OLD TREE LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JG - Erection of 2.75m high chainlink fencing to enclose tennis court. **Reason: 1**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
10 - Application is of general Public Interest.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **3rd July 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 19th June 2011

HIGHWAYS

VARIOUS FOOTPATHS AT WORTH (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council

Dover District Council

OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP 2011

The Open Golf Championship will take place this year in Sandwich between 10th and 17th July 2011.

Thousands of spectators are expected to attend the championship throughout the week, increasing to some 50,000 per day as the final match play approaches.

For the safety of the public during the Open Golf Championship, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use of those sections of Various Footpaths at Worth which fall within the boundary of Royal St George's Golf Links, as shown below.

EE249 - Public Footpath between Princes Drive and Guilford Road.

EE231 - Public Footpath (part of the Saxon Shore Way) between Princes Drive to North Stream.

The alternative route is via EE230 - Public Footpath between Princes Drive and North Stream.

This Order takes effect from 10 July 2011 until 18 July 2011 inclusive, and ceases to have effect on completion of the Open Golf Championship.

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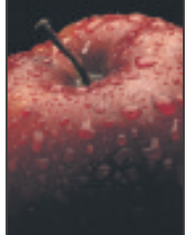

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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/01534/FUL St Georges Church The Green, Benenden
- Reinstatement of former handrail and formation of shallow brick steps (LB) (CA)

11/01647/FUL Farm Building Rear Of Whitegates Stepneyford Lane, Benenden
- Change of use of redundant farm building to holiday accommodation (DEVPLN)

11/01528/HOUSE Cornhall House High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Single storey side extension, infill extension to front elevation and internal alterations (CA) (LB)

11/01530/LBC Cornhall House High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Listed Building Consent - Single storey side extension, infill extension to front elevation and internal alterations (LB)

11/01607/FUL Charity Farm Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Installation of solar photovoltaic panels on the roofs of two existing barns (LB)

11/01465/FUL 84 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Creation of roof terrace to rear and parking to front (CA) (LB)

11/01466/LBC 84 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Listed Building Consent - Creation of roof terrace to rear and parking to front (LB)

11/01544/FUL 66 And 67 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Reinstatement of basement flats (CA) (LB)

11/01550/CAC 66 And 67 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of outbuildings and stairs at rear and removal of part of railings to install a gate (CA)

11/01682/MOD1 Costa Coffee 1 Grosvenor Road, Culverden
- Section 52 Modification - Second floor extension; Change of use upper floors to offices; Changes to elevation (TW/84/0998 refers) (CA)

11/01646/HOUSE Acorns Cranbrook Road, Frittenden
- Retrospective - Detached open fronted shed to rear (CA)

11/01552/LBC Barn Hillside Farm, Goudhurst
- Extension of Time - Listed Building Consent - Conversion of outshots of barn to create a two bedroom apartment as an annexe to existing farmhouse, to include partial conversion to create an office of which works have already been carried out (TW/08/01743/LBC refers) (CA)

11/01589/HOUSE Priors Heath Oast Priors Heath, Goudhurst
- Single storey rear extension and related alterations (LB)

11/01590/LBC Priors Heath Oast Priors Heath, Goudhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Single storey rear extension and related alterations (LB)

11/01648/HOUSE 2 Pixhall Cottages High Street, Hawkhurst
- Renovation of existing single glazed timber windows including upgrading with new 11mm slimlite double glazing within the existing frames. Provision of matching double glazing to new glazed doors and windows (LB)

11/01651/LBC 2 Pixhall Cottages High Street, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Renovation of existing single glazed timber windows including upgrading with new 11mm slimlite double glazing within

the existing frames. Provision of matching double glazing to new glazed doors and windows (LB)

11/01593/LBC Hayle Oast Marle Place Road, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent - Minor alterations and improvements, including reinstating original features (LB)

11/01547/HOUSE 7 Clifton Place Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Loft conversion to include new slate clad dormer to rear elevation (CA)

11/01592/LBC 7B Grove Hill Gardens Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent - Extension of existing shower enclosure to incorporate a vanity basin and additional storage cupboard (LB)

11/01077/FUL 65 Camden Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Conversion of existing vacant public house into a nails, spa and beauty salon on ground floor and 1 No. 3-bedroom, self-contained flat on first floor; carry out remedial works to defective roof coverings and gutters and to re-decorate the external (CA)

11/01526/FUL Strada 76 Mount Pleasant Road, Park
- Use of part of public footpath as seating area (6 tables and 12 chairs) for restaurant (CA)

11/01361/FUL 11 Lower Green Road Pembury, Pembury
- Change of use of land to residential and erection of a 1.9m high fence (CA)

11/01420/FUL 37 Hastings Road Pembury, Pembury
- Retrospective - Demolition of existing outbuildings and sheds and construction of masonry storage shed (CA)

11/01566/HOUSE 26 Park Road Southborough, Southborough North
- Removal of conservatory and replace with single storey extension (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 18 June 2011

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817044

JobsforKent.co.uk The smart way to find a job in the County

Go trekking with llamas in grounds of a castle

SEE PAGE 59

TITANIC DISPLAY

Artefacts from ill-fated liner to go on show at the Historic Dockyard

SEE PAGE 61

Kent Weekend

Play it again, ma'am

The burlesque beauty who strips music to its core

TURN TO PAGE 63

PLUS: The county's economy should benefit massively when the world's top golfers tee off at Royal St George's - **talking point 50** Superb seaside residence in Folkestone - **Kent's finest property of the week p70** The new Mercedes estate is delivering the goods **- driving p83**

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THE INTERVIEW

A long way from Tipperary

Joe Bill talks to Marie Kelly of Dover Youth Theatre about her passion for developing talent of the future

IN BETWEEN releasing albums, performing internationally and singing for the BBC, Dover diva Marie Kelly is dedicated to coaching the stars of tomorrow.

The Irish performer has been running Dover Youth Theatre for almost 17 years, helping to hone the skills of young performers from the age of six up to their late teens.

An experienced singer, musician and actress herself, the Tipperary-born entertainer throws herself into the role of artistic director at the award-winning performance school.

She said: "I love it. The stage is immediate. In film you can go back and change something if you don't like it.

"But on stage it is there, it is live, it is right in front of you, that is your moment.

"Every night is different because every audience is different and working with people on a live basis is stimulating and very challenging."

Marie began her performing career while studying medieval history at Trinity College in Dublin during the 80s. She said: "I had always been singing as a child, it was a way that nobody could tell me what to do while I was on the stage. So singing and acting had always played a large part of my life.

"I attended university, but it was always in the back of my mind that I wanted to sing full-time.

"At the same time as Trinity, I went over to the college of music in Dublin to see a great lady called Veronica Dunn, who had been a diva at Covent Garden.

"She was the premier singing teacher in Ireland at the time and I went to sing for her and managed to win a scholarship to the college."

And the mother of three even performed on television while studying in Dublin.

"In my last year at the college of music I ended up in the first opera to play the new national concert hall.

"I was actually the first person to sing at the newly-built hall, which was fantastic, and I found myself on the front cover of a few national papers because it was covered by the TV and radio."

Marie is married to husband Michael, who also lives and works in Dover, but it was the stage that brought the actress to England in the first place.

She said: "I played truant from college one day and auditioned for HMS Pinafore and that's where it all started. I got the part and ended up doing a long run in Dublin and other places and then finding myself in the West End in London.

"At that time, things weren't too hot in Ireland theatrical-wise, so I decided I would stay here."

The keen harpist does still have a few irons in the fire, but is now more focused on her family and work with Dover Youth Theatre, which celebrated its 16th anniversary in 2010.

The workshops run on a Tuesday from the Salem Baptist Church in Dover and are designed to get youngsters interested in performing arts to work on their skills.

"We have a very good, thriving theatre at the moment – amazingly, we have more boys than girls right now," said Marie.

"We want to make sure the children are stimulated using theatre warm-ups and improvisation and just doing something different.

"We are using everything we can – with the older ones we are doing audition pieces as they go off to audition to drama schools or to get into university, and we teach them how to handle themselves.

"It is really a bit of life preparation as well."

Marie started DYT after deciding to spend some time closer to home. She asked the council what it thought about her starting some performance classes – and the response was keen.

Since its beginning in 1995, the group has won a number of awards, including Best Youth Theatre in Kent in 2007. It can also boast Pauline McLynn, best known for her role as Mrs Doyle in Father Ted, as patron.

Marie is a firm believer in variety for her pupils. "Lots of youth programmes around Kent focus only on musicals," she said. "We want to give children a chance at straight acting and real stage plays.

"I do like working with young people – it keeps you alive!"

The theatre has announced auditions for a workshop on Film Sport And The Performing Arts – A Celebration Of The Cultural Olympiad.

They will be held on Friday, July 1, from 4pm at the Salem Baptist Church hall. There is a limit of 25 free places and they are open to those aged 10 to 25. Entrants must prepare a short drama piece and an unaccompanied song in any style.

Phone 01304 202544 or email doveryouththeatre@hotmail.com to reserve your audition time.

For more information on how to get involved with Dover Youth Theatre, visit www.doveryouththeatre.co.uk or www.mariekelly.co.uk.

> **Lots of programmes around Kent focus only on musicals. We want to give children a chance at straight acting and real stage plays. I like working with young people – it keeps you alive!**
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> MARIE KELLY BELIEVES IN VARIETY

KELLY'S EYE: Marie Kelly has spent almost 17 years helping to nurture young talent in her role as artistic director at the award-winning Dover Youth Theatre

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TALKING **POINT**

The Open

BIRDIE: Golf superstar Tiger Woods is out of this weekend's US Open with knee and Achillies heel injuries, but he is expected to be fit in time for the tournament at Royal St George's in Sandwich

In just a few weeks' time The Open tournament will bring hundreds of thousands of golf fans to Sandwich, while 100 million will watch the action unfold on TV. Reporter MARIJKE COX investigates what The Open will mean for the Kent economy, and asks if there will be any long term benefits for Kent

A HOLE IN ONE FOR COUNTY'S ECONOMY

IN LESS than a month the eyes of the world will be on Kent as one of the most prestigious international sporting events arrives in Sandwich. And with an estimated 200,000 visitors expected to descend on the county for The Open Championship at Royal St George's, the local economy looks set for a multi-million pound boost.

According to Visit Kent, a study carried out after the last Open Championship in Sandwich in 2003 revealed more than £17.6 million of additional spending was generated in the east of the county; £17.4m in London and the South East region; and £12.7m for the UK.

Early predictions suggest the value of the sporting event to Kent will be in the region of £48m in 2011.

And with hotels booked up as early as last year, all signs are pointing to a huge boost, which will come as a welcome break to the spell of bad news recently seen in east Kent where Pfizer announced in February it was leaving, with around 3,300 potential redundancies.

Some residents have decided to take advantage of the tournament by renting out their properties to visitors.

Although the sporting spectacular only runs from July 14-17, tourism chiefs anticipate a week long stay for many spectators and subsequent visits in the following months and years.

Visit Kent predicted some 1,000 jobs could be created directly and indirectly at golf courses, hotels, restaurants, travel companies and other local businesses.

Chief executive of Visit Kent, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, said: "The Open Championship is one of the most important global sports events and is watched by an estimated 100 million television viewers via 50 broadcasters around the world.

"Royal St George's is the only Open venue in southern England and the closest to London, so this is a significant opportunity for Kent to benefit not just during Open week, but in the years before and after the Championship.

"That's why we are working to attract both dedicated golfers and leisure visitors to take short and long breaks in Kent and enjoy the wonderful variety of golf courses we have, as well as the many other attractions the county has to offer."

Volunteers have been selected as ambassadors for the Kent Golf Partnership, which aims to use The Open legacy to promote sport and inspire future golfers, to help out at the Championship and provide support for organiser The R&A.

The 23 selected ambassadors, who are aged from 16-23, will also volunteer at junior, adult and disabled golfing events in the area in the run up to the event.

Young Ambassador Hannah Baker said: "This is a unique opportunity to experience both professional and grassroots golf in the county."

Jim Pocknell, chairman of the Kent Golf Partnership, added: "We were extremely pleased with the interest in the legacy project from young people across Kent and we are very impressed with the positive attitude and enthusiasm our Young Ambassadors have shown so far."

Preparations have been put in place to cope with the influx of people to Sandwich, with high-speed train services extended to the town, reducing journey times from London by one hour to around 95 minutes.

Service delivery director for Southeastern trains, Vince Lucas, said it was sure to be popular for spectators travelling from the capital.

"The Open is the biggest sporting event to take place in Kent, and is a great opportunity to show what the region has to offer," he added.

> **"The Open is watched by 100 million viewers. It's a significant opportunity for Kent to benefit not just during Open week, but in the years before and after the Championship**
>
> SANDRA MATTHEWS-MARSH, VISIT KENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The move to link Sandwich to London with the high-speed line paved the way for a permanent service to be introduced from autumn to the historical town and neighbouring Deal.

During The Open there will also be a further hourly mainline service meaning the event will be served by four trains per hour.

For those arriving at the station a bus service will be provided to ferry spectators to and from the club. Those driving to Sanwich will have access to a 12,000-space car park and an additional park-and-ride site for 4,000 vehicles at Barville Farm off the A256.

Preparations for residents who will be effected have also been put in place with Dover District Council sending out 'local resident' stickers, giving locals access to effected areas in the town to ensure they can continue to move around freely.

Dover council has been working with Kent County Council on an overall traffic plan for the event.

Chairman of the Open Golf Project Executive, Cllr Nigel Collor, said: "The Open is an excellent opportunity for the area, bringing in millions of pounds, and giving a great chance to highlight the many attractions of the district and the county.

"As the eyes of the world turn to Sandwich, we continue to work with local residents and all our partners to make sure that day-to-day community life continues, and to ensure that we realise the major benefits of this prestigious event for the area for the benefit of everyone."

Organisers The R&A said they were delighted to be returning to Royal St George's.

"This was the first course outside of Scotland to host The Open Championship, in 1894 when JH Taylor won the first of his five titles," said chairman of the championship committee Jim McArthur.

"The great links of Royal St George's with all its natural beauty right on the edge of the English Channel places great emphasis on strategic play and not just muscle power.

"It is also a wonderful venue from a spectator's viewpoint due to the size of the site and the layout of the course with many natural vantage points providing great views of the action."

For further information, please visit www.opengolfsandwich.co.uk. Residents with a room to spare are asked to call DDC tourism team on 01304 240477.

■ **For all the latest up-to-date news on The Open go to www.golfforkent.co.uk.**

HAVE YOUR SAY...

We would like to hear your views on this, or any other story.
Write to: KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth TN25
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KENT **REMEMBERED**

HOME FRONT: The Kennington Home Guard, in 1940, were some of Kent's thousands of volunteers

Real wartime Dad's Army diary discovered

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE real-life Home Guard was just as farcical as the accident-prone platoon portrayed in TV's Dad's Army, according to the diary of a Kent-based former officer.

The newly unearthed journal, found at an Exeter car boot sale, has lifted the lid on the real Home Guard.

And in some parts it makes the antics of the cast of the much-loved TV show look positively professional.

The journal kept by a Home Guard officer called Rodney Foster features a string of incidents that could have come straight from the TV scripts.

Mr Foster was a platoon commander based in Saltwood and his journal reveals bickering among officers, men caught sleeping on duty, and elderly volunteers too scared to go on operations in the dark.

It also tells of failure to shoot straight because of poor eyesight, and village hall training exercises with chairs piled together to make trenches.

It mirrors the TV show in which comic blunders by the likes of Captain Mainwaring (Arthur Lowe), Lance Corporal Jones (Clive Dunn), and Sergeant Wilson (John le Mesurier) proved a massive hit with viewers that it is still repeated to this day.

Lines such as "You stupid boy", "We're all doomed" and "Don't panic" have passed into popular culture.

In wartime, diaries from military personnel were officially discouraged in case they fell into enemy hands – but this ruling was frequently ignored.

AT EASE: Captain Mainwaring has real-life counterparts

This particular one has emerged to throw fresh light on the last line of Britain's defence to the threat of German invasion – which saw Kent in the frontline during the early years of World War Two.

The diary tells how one rifle target practice session ended in farce when the platoon was split young and old – but the elderly members could not hit the target because of their poor eyesight.

The unit also took part in a mock invasion exercise at night – but some of the older men declined because they were frightened to go out in the dark.

A pair of young volunteers were sent to guard a remote waterworks at night but fell asleep and had to be woken by their commanding officer.

And in another exercise the unit was supposed to clear a wood of German parachutists, but two of the men spent the time chatting to each other.

Mr Foster, who was a lieutenant colonel in the Indian Army, joined the Home Guard at the start of the war and by 1942 was promoted to major, commanding 560 men.

In 1943 he quit to become an Air Raid Precautions warden – just like Captain Mainwaring's rival William "Put that light out" Hodges (Bill Pertwee).

Mr Foster, who was 80 when he died, wrote eight volumes of his experiences.

Northumberland antiques dealer Shaun Sewell identified him after buying the diary and, in November, Penguin publish an abridged version called The Real Dad's Army: The War Diaries of Colonel Rodney Foster.

Mr Sewell said: "As a guerrilla outfit I think they would have provided quite strong resistance to the Germans.

"All of them would have laid down their life to do what was expected of them and to hold the line against an invasion.

"There are elements that remind you of Dad's Army, but I was surprised at how professional they eventually became."

Dad's Army was screened between 1968-77 and spawned a feature film and stage show – as well as numerous catchphrases and newspaper headlines.

Mr Foster moved to Devon and died in Kingsbridge in 1962, and it was after the death of his daughter that the diary was sold as part of a house sale.

It then moved through at least two antique collectors before being obtained by Penguin.

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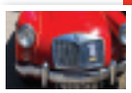

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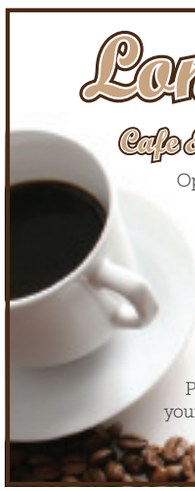

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A splendid stopping place on the road well travelled

Ramblers, foodies and fans of real ale are well catered for at this traditional pub tucked away on the downs

THE Black Horse at Thurnham is a picturesque pub nestled in the heart of the North Downs.

Since 1751 it has been providing travellers with food and refreshment, many of them walking the Pilgrim's Way. The tradition continues to this day, but for modern-day visitors arriving by car rather than horseback.

The pub near Maidstone has made its reputation by providing quality food for its guests. Local ingredients are freshly prepared by head chef Dan Curtis and his team.

Manager John Dyer said: "We have a full a la carte menu as well as good traditional pub food. We also have reduced-price set menus on Monday and Tuesday nights. We change the main core of the menu about every three months, but then we have specials that change every week and that offers really good value."

The Black Horse must be doing something right to attract so many visitors down the narrow lanes. On a busy night, staff can expect to serve more than 150 diners.

The pub also has a separate annexe with 30 en-suite rooms for visitors to stay.

Ramblers come for the great walks around the downs and business travellers seek it out looking for something superior to a service-station travel lodge.

John said: "We attract a lot of walkers and we are a dog-friendly pub, which many people like. During the week we also have a lot of business people and people staying who are coming to and from the Continent."

There are six circular walks near The Black Horse and the pub provides guides for guests to help them find their way.

Inside, there is a traditional welcoming Kentish feel. Hops hang from the wooden beams and wood stoves warm chilled or tired feet on cold winter days. In summer the large conservatory offers a bright, airy environment.

There is also a wide selection of real ales for the dedicated enthusiast.

John said: "We try to get in as many local beers in as we can. Real ale is really on the up. Young people are moving away from lager and we get a lot of feedback from customers about the ones that they like."

COMPLETE PACKAGE: There's something for everyone at The Black Horse in Thurnham

Drinkers can enjoy beers from local microbreweries such as Coppertop from the Old Dairy Brewery or Grasshopper from Westerham. Biddenden ciders are also on tap.

"A lot of guests are keen to try the local beers and, believe it or not, we do have a few drinkers who come here just for the cider," said John.

The pub's reputation has grown since the current owners took over 14 years ago. It also has a licence for wedding ceremonies and offers dining for large parties. Websites like Tripadvisor are useful for attracting new guests, although the pub's domain name of wellieboot may seem a bit unusual.

John said: "When the owners took over, there were two cats, one called Wellie and the other called Boot. The owners liked that because it tied in with the whole theme of walking."

John, the manager for nine years, is aware of the dangers of becoming complacent.

He said: "It's all about attention to detail. We have to offer our customers the whole package. We pride ourselves on having really friendly front-of-house staff. People don't want robots."

■ **To find out more, visit www.wellieboot.net/home_blackhorse.htm**

Variety is the spice of life, especially when served quickly

RESTAURANT REVIEW

SOMETIMES you want to visit a restaurant where you're in and out in less than an hour.

Having to wait an age between courses is not to everyone's taste, which is presumably why the Chomchom Asian buffet restaurants in Beckenham and Canterbury are proving so popular.

But it's safe to say that speed of service is not all that this trendy new restaurant chain has going for it.

Indeed, it's a wonder there aren't more eateries to have cottoned on to the fact that when groups of people go out to dine together, they don't necessarily all want to eat the same type of food.

My partner and I visited the Canterbury branch one Tuesday evening and the place was heaving.

Given the variety of mainly Indian and Chinese dishes available, not to mention the speed at which you can get them on your table, it wasn't hard to see why.

Chomchom's food is split into four sections – starters, mains, desserts and a separate noodle area where you can decide which ingredients you would like the chef to throw in for you.

The starters area contains an assortment of nibbles that cater for most people's tastes, ranging from chips and pizza to vegetable spring rolls, onion bhajis and sticky chicken.

Fans of Indian and Chinese cuisine will not be disappointed by the main courses on offer, as all the traditional favourites like beef in black-bean sauce, chicken tikka masala and rogan josh are in place. There is even the odd Thai and Italian dish to be found.

My only criticism of the dessert section was that it appeared to cater more for children, with an abundance of jelly, ice-cream, jam roly-polies and jelly beans. Not that it stopped me eating any of it, of course, but a wider range of treats would have been welcome.

Overall, there's nothing out of the ordinary in terms of the dishes available, but at roughly £15 per person – coupled with the fact that you can eat until you're full – it's excellent value.

The staff are all extremely friendly and helpful, and there is a bar at the entrance of the restaurant that is classy enough to visit even if you're not in the mood for food.

The cost for two buffet meals with a drink each was £37.79. The total time spent inside the restaurant was just over an hour, which is good news for those who like their meal to be the start of a fun night out.

Steve Knight

■ **Chomchom, 10-11 Burgate Lane, Canterbury CT1 2HH. Tel: 01227 450200. Email: info@chomchom.co.uk. Web: www.chomchom.co.uk**

Farmers' markets

Mersham

THE Mersham market takes place every fortnight on a Friday between 2.30pm and 6.30pm in the grounds of the Farriers Arms pub, which is managed by local people and offers fresh and good-quality produce such as meat, fruit and vegetables.

Headcorn

HEADCORN farmers' market has now entered its fourth year and opens for business every second Saturday of the month from 9.30am to 12.30pm in the village hall. It aims to provide good-quality local produce and locally-made goods at extremely competitive prices.

Tunbridge Wells

THE farmers' market is located in the historical centre of Tunbridge Wells, The Pantiles. It revives the tradition of an open-air market held here a few centuries ago on the first and third Saturdays between the hours of 9am and 2pm.

Hythe

HYTHE farmers' market was established in March 2004 and is now located in the Methodist church hall, which is sited between Chapel Street and Prospect Road and is open on the second and fourth Saturdays every month from 10am to noon.

Gravesend

THE farmers' market in Gravesend high street and is open between 10am and 2pm on the second Friday of each month. It started in October 2007 on a trial basis and has been supported by Gravesham Borough Council since its inception.

Elham

THE Elham market is held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month in the courtyard of the Rose And Crown pub, from 10am to midday. It offers locally-produced fruit and vegetables, eggs, cheese, meat, game, bread, cakes, jams and wine.

■ **For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**

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ATTRACTIVE slim 52yr old female, seeks N/S companion, 52-60 to share countryside, walking, swimming, days out, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369179**

34YR old single mum of 2, size 16, caring, cuddly, seeks genuine, loving male with GSOH. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386268**

FED up with lonely nights in! 33yr old brunette with green eyes WLTM someone 35-50yrs for TLC maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368913**

BEAUTIFUL blue eyed blonde, 26, slim, looking for evenings out with male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368911**

22YR old leggy blonde, seeking likeminded man for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368909**

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453**

48YR old female, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, holidays, coast, seeks male, 48-50, preferably a smoker for LTR. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365955**

SUSIE 5ft 7ins, blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385476**

34YR old blonde new to the area, seeking younger guy for fun times maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079**

FUN loving curvy red head 32yrs, loves good food/wine, WLTM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077**

ACADEMIC man sought by female, recent graduate, into art, history, psychology, likes usual activities as well as London art galleries and walks. Brimley. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365501**

ATTRACTIVE confident, lady, 37, independent, HIV Positive, seeks male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363415**

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy, size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344291**

ATTRACTIVE lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159**

ISABELLE lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTM male for love, companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305**

BEAUTIFUL stunning young female, 21, seeks older, retired gent 70 plus to take care of her. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368187**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039**

LISTEN up! Attractive female, WLTM male into music, films, sport and theatre. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367971**

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367851**

ATTRACTIVE mature, outgoing Caribbean female, seeks interesting companion for socialising, good conversation and glass of wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367799**

YOUNG 60 something female looking for friendship only with likeminded ladies for meals out, nights out and holidays. Feltham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367625**

PETITE brunette, blue eyes witty and fun, looking for similar kind, laid back male to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368407**

YOUNG very fit brunette 23yrs, likes to look good, seeks similar sporty guy for some relaxed fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368405**

CONFIDENT blue eyed brunette, intelligent, cultured and attractive, very solvent, looking for happy older male who will let me look after him. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368401**

30YR old beautiful blonde with lovely green eyes looking for uncomplicated love and romance with a tall dark haired male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368003**

FUN female 35yrs looking to let her hair down seeks easygoing N/S guy for a relationship, 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368001**

SINGLE confident black female 32yrs, very attractive, loves doing fun and interesting things, seeking a real man. Any race/age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367999**

ELIZABETH loving, kind, caring, seeks older gent, 78 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366603**

VERY cute, slim, black professional female, 36, looking for love! If you are honest, passionate, caring and spontaneous, ring me. Any race. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366725**

GREEN eyed blonde in need of love and attention seeks youthful, trendy experienced guy to enjoy good times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366723**

ATTRACTIVE young hearted female, fed up with being alone, so if you feel the same, give me a call, lets get together. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366721**

TALL blue eyed 30's female, brown hair, lots of interests, seeks male for good times. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366705**

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTM romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

LORRAINE seeks trustworthy white male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363793**

DONNA 35, single mum of 3, seeks male with GSOH, 35-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385064**

5FT 2ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, homely, down to earth, seeks female for LTR. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366525**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

LORNA 66, nurse, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364237**

FEMALE 64, brown/grey hair, medium build, honest, caring, loving, seeks similar in male, 30-60 for friendship/relationship. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364253**

LOOKING for my soul mate, 57, lonely, caring, affectionate, likes a drink in good company, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, seeks someone to share life with. Is that you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385172**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

SALLY independent, intelligent, confident, caring female, seeking a similar soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

MISS Gorgeous, 5ft 8ins, black beauty, curvy, likes a laugh, happy go lucky, seeks male for fun times. Hackney. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365861**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

JANE 27, caring, bubbly, likes nights out, cinema, bowling, DVDs, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363203**

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975**

FEMALE 25, professional, likes nights out, socialising, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360961**

A rare diamond, bright, sparkly and good quality, let me put the sparkle back into your life. Wanted professional, attractive male, 38-58, medium build, 5ft 9ins. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361005**

LADY slim, brunette, N/S, likes music, National Trust, theatre, days out, seeks sincere, honest gent, 48-60 for friendship, maybe more. Kent/Sussex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360633**

42YR old female, likes music, dancing, writing, astrology, cats, seeks male with GSOH and similar age. Medway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351577**

48YR old female, average build, good looking, likes most things, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363321**

FUN outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331**

GLASS half full N/S mid 50's woman, seeks other half. Are you a professional man, 50-60 who likes the finer things in life? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363969**

CARING young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359761**

57YR old lady, works, divorced, likes beach, meals out, theatre, travel, weekends away, seeks white male, 56-61 with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359685**

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669**

SALLY petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, TV, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362665**

30YR old brunette fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075**

36YR old female looking for mutual companionship with understanding man stuck in a similar rut. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331**

64YR old female, 5ft 2ins, GSOH, likes golf, seeks male with GSOH for friendship, days out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581**

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477**

UNIQUE attractive black female, 37, slim, enjoys music, reading, theatre nature, WLTM genuine gent, 37-49 to share laughter and life, caring, N/S who lives near London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333815**

ANNE 61, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361243**

65YR old slim brunette, caring, loving, many interests, arts, coastal walks, animals, cooking, seeks attractive, compatible male. Dog owner in Maidstone perfect. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383676**

MALE Guardian reader? Arty, vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin, seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360655**

SUZANNE 35, beautiful blonde, seeks male for chats and a relaxing glass of wine anytime. ACA, status unimportant. City area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342527**

PRETTY woman, slim, black, widow, 39, energetic, seeks white, solvent male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360695**

52YR old female, likes walks, animals, theatre, cinema, seeks male for companionship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357291**

LATE 20's female seeking older male. Call to hear exactly what I'm like and looking for. I can meet anywhere in London at any time **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356995**

TALL slim brunette, just 21yrs seeks interesting older male who knows what's what, show me the ways of the world. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356969**

SOUTH London Lady, full figure with long hair, curves in all the right places. WLTM male of any age for fun, friendship and more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356989**

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613**

PATRICIA outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215**

ATTRACTIVE black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go karts, seeks professional white male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins-6ft. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353897**

BLACK female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382910**

LONELY female, petite, attractive, size 8-10, blue eyes, long hair, likes historic places, holidays, meals out, seeks honest, genuine male for friendship initially. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356359**

POLITE bubbly female, GSOH, seeks gent for caring friendship, likes nights in and socialising. Dartford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382666**

SEALED with a kiss. 37yr old single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, curvy, likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkestone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355543**

Men Seeking

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 781 4392

(T&C's below)

NICE looking guy 46, 6ft, slim, genuine, open-minded, no baggage, seeks relaxed, fun loving female with similar outlook for exciting LTR. SE London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369079**

IAN 5ft 6ins, blond hair, blue eyes, easygoing, GSOH, seeks female. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386282**

FIT young active 65yr old male, medium build, dog owner, likes countryside, seeks similar active lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369011**

37YR old male, 6ft 7ins, blue eyes, dark hair, GSOH, seeks female. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368969**

RON retired, active, feels 40, seeks white lady for friendship, maybe more. Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368945**

KIND cuddly, caring 30yr old male, GSOH, laidback, likes simple things, seeks more mature lady for conversation, companionship and maybe more. Gravesend. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368897**

PROFESSIONAL 45yr old male, one son, bored of the same thing, seeks lady for possible romance. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386234**

DARREN 39, 6ft 3ins, medium build, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368807**

PROFESSIONAL male, 62, generous, fun loving, seeks non assertive lady for special relationship. Farnham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367191**

DAVID 58, its Spring and I am looking for an easygoing lady for a LTR. East Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157**

PAUL 56, decorator, 5ft 8ins, cropped hair, attractive, genuine, kind, likes theatre, pubs, seeks female, 50-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366935**

6FT male, romantic, GSOH, caring, seeks female, 35-45 for friendship, possible romance. Single mum welcome. Sheerness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368249**

SHY average looking male, seeks funny girl to make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368219**

DAVID 47, fair hair, likes enjoying life, seeks N/S slim, pretty lady for LTR. Romney Marsh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368159**

ATTRACTIVE blond, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, genuine, sincere, GSOH, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere Oriental/black/Asian female. Essex. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368149**

SOUL love? Stylish male, 5ft 8ins, into music, films, art etc, seeks shapely, attractive female, 28-38 to share enjoyable times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366795**

ANDREW 59 seeks similar aged female for LTR. Maidstone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366783**

6FT 4ins male, 37, GSOH, seeks female for friendship and more. Ramsgate/Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366765**

BLACK male, 48, bubbly, seeks voluptuous, white female, 18-45 for friendship, maybe more. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366681**

PHIL medium build, blond hair, blue eyes, likes travel, clubs, cinema, meals out, seeks female for fun and friendship. Bexley Heath. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366635**

TALL slim, lonely 53yr old guy, seeks female for loving, tender relationship, age/looks unimportant. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366941**

SLIM good looking male, likes most things, seeks female for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366631**

FUN naughty guy, 60, seeks fun, naughty girl, any age/size. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386052**

ADVENTUROUS attractive young man, 30's, great personality, seeks mature female to share happy loving moments, laughter and amazing spiritual summer. London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367973**

Gay Seeking

53YR old bi male, 5ft 11ins, slim, seeks gay/bi male, experienced, up to 65 from Faversham/Sittingbourne area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367829**

GAY English guy 34, Luton based, non scene, seeks older, retired gent, 70 plus for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368163**

TONY looking for fun times with guy, 45-60, quite hairy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386074**

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All this quality and the choice really is yours

ONE of the great treats of today is a hearty meal amid beautiful countryside or in the heart of a bustling town centre.

Kent has a wide range of restaurants, pubs and other eateries catering for almost any requirement, with the à la carte menus offering the chance for diners to choose exactly what dishes they want to complement one another.

Whether it be a business affair where good food and drink oils the discussion and prepares for a big profitable deal, or a relaxed long meal with family or friends catching up on all the gossip, there is something for everyone in the Garden of England.

Here is a selection of excellent venues all offering something different yet with one thing in common – a commitment to culinary excellence and impeccable service.

Many of the county's venues pride themselves on serving top-quality local produce – whether it be locally-caught fish, Romney Marsh lamb, home-produced beef, or the strawberries, cherries, apples and plums from the rolling fields and orchards that make our county so special.

The choice is vast and an à la carte menu is the perfect way to ensure that diners can get to experience the superb range of fine foods on offer. And when it comes to something to wash down the meal – what better than delicious Kentish wines, ales or ciders?

They are among the best-produced anywhere in Britain and justly famous for their wonderful quality.

White Horse
Boughton

Why here...
Using locally-sourced food, this is a historic pub restaurant in a glorious village surrounded by orchards. Beautifully traditional, with log fires and a cosy, intimate feel.

On the menu...
Goujons of British whiting or potted Cornish crab; steamed steak-and-onion suet pudding; or slow-roast shoulder of Brogdale pork. Fresh fruits, summer pudding, or rich lemon tart.

How to book...
The White Horse Inn,
The Street, Boughton-under-Blean ME13 9AL
www.whitehorsecanterbury.co.uk

First and Last
Herne Bay

Why here...
The new owners would like to welcome customers old and new to the fresh food cooked by chef Martin, who is still there after 25 years. Light meals are also available, with specials always changing.

On the menu...
Peppered venison steak with red-wine sauce, braised red cabbage and new potatoes. Grilled salmon fillet, creamy peas and bacon with new potatoes. A wide range of homemade desserts.

How to book...
The First and Last,
Herne Common, Herne Bay CT6 7JU
For advanced bookings, phone 01227 364465

Tudor Park
Maidstone

Why here...
The Conical Grill is sited in the Tudor Park, which is a Marriott Hotel and Country Club in Bearsted. It provides the perfect location to dine with family and friends on any night of the week. Overlooking more than 200 acres of ancient deer-park and serving delicious food, the Conical Grill is a unique dining experience.
A speciality is Sunday lunch, and staff are always available to ensure that the experience is one to be savoured.

On the menu...
If you are looking for something with a difference, there are themed nights from Motown tributes to murder mysteries or evenings featuring the music of the Rat Pack. Very popular Latin salsa nights are also being staged at a cost of just £39 per person.

How to book...
Tudor Park, Ashford Road, Maidstone ME14 4NQ
01622 632006
www.marriotttudorpark.co.uk

London Beach
Tenterden

Why here...
A charming and sophisticated restaurant with a fantastic menu and panoramic views across the Weald of kent. Easy to find on the Ashford Road, A28, with ample parking on site.

On the menu...
Ravioli of prawns and smoked salmon with shellfish bisque are starters, while mains include chargrilled 28-day matured steak. There is an extensive dessert range.

How to book...
London Beach Country Hotel, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6HX
phone 01580 766279
enquiries@londonbeach.com

See Ho
Shorne

Why here...
The See Ho bar and restaurant is in a beautiful rural location and popular with walkers. It is close to picturesque Shorne Country Park and ideal for freshly-prepared lunches, dinners and private parties.
The venue can seat up to 50 people and is easy to find, just off the A2.
Live music, quiz nights and plenty of themed evenings are held at this popular local inn, which makes everyone welcome.

On the menu...
Fresh fish is prepared daily and all ingredients are sourced locally. Homemade pies, curries and Italian dishes are also extremely popular. A new chef is bringing the feel of the Mediteranean to the restaurant, which offers top-quality food at affordable prices.

How to book...
Pear Tree Lane, Shorne, Gravesend
phone: 01474 822386
Book or just turn up

Olive Tree
Ramada

Why here...
At the four-star Ramada Dover and open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, with a live pianist on Thursday to Saturday evenings. Carvery lunch is available every Sunday.

On the menu...
An à la carte menu from international chefs is available every day. Thursday evening is a special Italian night, while Friday is spice night. A good selection of desserts is always available.

How to book...
Ramada Dover, Singledge Lane, Whitfield, Dover
phone 01304 872845
reservations@ramadadover.co.uk

■ IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT **Six of the Best** CONTACT 01303 817150 OR EMAIL **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

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Grand Burstin, Folkestone

Self drive, 4 nights half board £109pp

Arrive Mondays: Aug 15, 22 & 29 or Sept 5, 2011

Located opposite Folkestone Harbour, the Grand Burstin is well known for its great nightly entertainment programme featuring music, comedy & more.

INCLUDED:

- En-suite bedroom
- 4 breakfasts & 4 dinners
- Entertainment every evening

Italian Lakes & Gardens

Escorted holiday by rail - afternoon departure from London
9 days, semi-all-inclusive
Quote CM10-KOS
From £999pp

Departs: October 7, 2011

This super holiday to Italy starts with a glass of bubbly (alternative non-alcoholic beverage available) at St Pancras famous Champagne Bar, before an escorted afternoon departure by Eurostar to Paris. The next morning we join the swift TGV train through Switzerland to Lugano, close to the Italian border and Lake Como. In Italy enjoy our all inclusive hotel, included excursions and the opportunity to ride on the famous Bernina Express scenic railway. We return to London by train arriving early-to-mid evening.

Lake Como

Italy's Lake Como is the deepest lake in Europe. The area boasts impressive scenery, with mountains rolling down to the water's edge, and while the summer months are hot it is often still possible to see snow on the peaks of the mountains across the lake. There are many historic and beautiful villas lining the shores, such as the Villa Carlotta and the Villa Meltzi with their spectacular gardens as well as many larger villas that have in recent years been converted into luxury hotels. Every town on the lake side has its charms, but some of the most spectacular views are to be found near the middle of the lake, between Tremezzo, Cadenabbia (our base) and Mennagio, Bellagio and Varenna where the sheer scale of the area, from the depth of the lake to the height of the mountains, can be seen.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Champagne check-in - 1 glass of Champagne or alternative non-alcoholic beverage
- Escorted throughout
- Return Eurostar and TGV train travel
- 1 night hotel b&b in Paris
- 7 nights by Lake Como at the 3 Star Britannia Excelsior Hotel on an all-inclusive basis with Free house wine, beers, spirits, tea/coffee between 08.30 and 23.45hrs
- Excursions as stated
- All transfers abroad

Grease & Saturday Night Fever Xmas Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 40s only

Self drive, 3 nights drinks inclusive
Quote MX11-KOS
~~£279~~pp Sale £259pp
£10pp deposit

Friday, Nov 25 to 28, 2011

Join us for a Christmas party with a super 1970s theme. Our party includes a screening of the movie Grease, a Bee Gees Tribute act and Free Drinks every day.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Sat & Sun
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Entertainment includes movie screening of Grease and Bee Gees Tribute act
- En-suite bedroom - upgrades available
- Indoor pool & sauna
- Return Car Ferry

Menton Lemon Festival & Nice Carnival

Escorted holiday by rail - afternoon departure from London
8 Days, semi-all-inclusive
Quote FL2-KOS
£849pp

Departs February 22, 2012

This super holiday takes in the French Riviera's premiere Carnivals and Monaco. On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Champagne Check-in
- Escorted throughout
- Eurostar to Paris
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris
- Return rail travel: London-Nice-London
- 6 buffet breakfasts & 6 dinners with wine, water & tea/coffee AND nightly Free bar 6pm to 11pm
- 6 nights in Diano Marina at a 3-star hotel
- Included visits to Menton Lemon Festival & Nice Carnival parades plus Monaco & San Remo
- All transfers abroad

Riviera of Flowers, Monaco, Portofino & Côte D'Azur

Escorted holiday by rail - afternoon departure from London
8 days, semi-all-inclusive
Quote DM4-KOS
£849pp

Departs: April 16, 2012

Join us for a superb holiday that takes in the best of the Italian Riviera of Flowers and the French Côte D'Azur. Experience fast train travel from London to the south of France and a touring itinerary which takes in the best of the Mediterranean coast.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Champagne Check-in
- Escorted throughout
- Eurostar to Lille or Paris
- 1 night hotel B&B in Lille or Paris
- TGV rail travel to Nice
- 6 nights in Diano Marina at a 3-star hotel
- 6 buffet breakfasts & 6 dinners with wine, water, tea/coffee AND nightly Free bar 6pm to 11pm
- 1 evening with live entertainment
- Included visits to Monaco, Portofino, Eze & San Remo
- Return rail travel to London
- All transfers abroad

Carry on New Year Party

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight - Over 40s only

Self drive, 3 nights, drinks inclusive
Quote BC1-KOS
£239pp
£10pp deposit

Friday, Jan 13 to 16, 2012

Join us for a party that extends the New Year festivities. Our weekend break includes a gala New Year's Eve party and Free Drinks every day.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Free drinks from 3.30m to 11pm on Friday; 12noon to 11pm Sat & Sun - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- En-suite bedroom
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Indoor pool & sauna
- Return car ferry

CYCLE Oyster Bay Trail and Reculver Park

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent

The newly-constructed seven-mile Oyster Bay Trail takes in some of the county's most spectacular coastline, a perfect route for cyclists to enjoy a leisurely ride as it winds its way around the shoreline, along Herne Bay seafront and concludes at the historic Reculver Towers

IF YOU enjoy great sea views, big skies and historic landscapes, then visit the seven-mile-long Oyster Bay Trail.

The first phase of this new cycle route comprises about five miles of promenade, new traffic-free cycle paths and lightly-trafficked residential roads. A further 1.5 miles are signed along the traffic-calmed Herne Bay seafront, which also benefits from a new 20mph speed limit along Central Parade.

A wonderful addition to Kent's coastal cycle network, this newly-constructed trail provides a natural extension to the renowned Viking Coastal Trail and links Reculver Country Park with Bishopstone, Herne Bay and Swalecliffe.

The Oyster Bay Trail is signed Regional Route 15 and transports visitors from the sea wall at Swalecliffe towards Hampton.

The route then follows the traffic-calmed Herne Bay seafront and rejoins the promenade at the eastern end of the town. At Bishopstone it goes around woodland and on towards Reculver Country Park, where visitors can enjoy panoramic sea views, a delight at sunset.

Reculver Country Park is internationally important for wildlife as a Special Protection Area and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The eroding cliffs provide an important habitat for a range of insects and birds. The cliff-top grassland provides a pleasant walk and cycle ride for visitors between Reculver and Bishopstone. Sand martins nest in the cliffs, while the grassland on top is a wildflower meadow, home to butterflies and skylarks.

The coast is undefended and the constant landslips reveal the geology of the area.

Reculver Towers are a landmark and Scheduled Ancient Monument that can be seen across the coastline from Herne Bay to Birchington, and the Kentish Flats offshore wind farm can also be seen from afar.

Reculver Visitor Centre is a great place to stop and rest or to find out more about the area as it has superb displays and a range of information on the importance of the site for wildlife, history and geology.

Convenient cycle-parking and public toilets are also provided nearby.

For those wishing to cycle further afield, go further east along the Viking Coastal Trail towards Margate via the slipway and numerous bays.

- **Location:** Swalecliffe to Reculver
- **Distance:** 7 miles (11.3 km), allow one hour
- **Terrain:** Mostly flat, surfaced path
- **Parking:** At Reculver Country Park, Herne Bay and Swalecliffe
- **Refreshments and facilities:** Visitor centre, toilets and refreshments at Reculver Country Park; refreshments also available en route at Swalecliffe and Herne Bay.

A BATTLE AT RECULVER

ON Sunday, June 26, come along to the the Battle at Reculver between 11am and 4pm to view a re-enactment of a Roman battle at Reculver Towers.

There will be two battles, at noon and at 2.30pm. Visitors young and old will be able to visualise how Reculver might have looked and sounded in Roman times as Reculver becomes the stage for a showdown between Romans and Saxons. Fun for all the family, including stalls and entertainment.

For more information about the event, you can phone 01227 868515.

RIDE ON: The Oyster Bay Trail transports cyclists from the sea wall at Swalecliffe, along the seafront at Herne Bay to the finish at Reculver Country Park, which is recognised as a Special Protection Area and Site of Special Scientific Interest

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KENT ATTRACTIONS

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Castle trail
Go trekking with llamas

Chiddingstone Castle
Sunday, July 10, 11am-4pm
www.chiddingstonecastle.org
Trek costs £7 per person

IF you fancy trekking around the countryside with an animal accomplice, Chiddingstone Castle could be the place for you in July.
For the first time at the beautiful castle, visitors have an opportunity to walk with llamas around the grounds.
The event gives children and parents the opportunity to learn about these gentle animals while having fun leading them around the castle.
The escorted walks last about 30 minutes and will include a nature trail along country paths and through woodland.
Children under 14 are to be accompanied by a responsible adult. The cost of the trek will be £7 per person, with the accompanying adult going free of charge.

Anniversary
Fun and frolics at hop festival

Faversham
Fri to Sun, September 2-4
01795 542016
www.shepherdneame.co.uk

THE Faversham Hop Festival is celebrating its 21st anniversary with extra tours of the town's Shepherd Neame brewery.
The free festival recalls the days when people travelled from London by train to take their annual working holiday in Kent hop gardens, ending their stay with huge parties.
The carnival atmosphere attracts more than 20,000 people, with street entertainers, music and the Spitfire steam train all on offer.
Sponsor of the event and Britain's oldest brewer Shepherd Neame is opening its doors for brewery tours and hoppers' lunches during the event. Visitors will have the chance to see inside the working brewery and enjoy tutored beer-tasting.

Dickens World
Annual pass to say thank you

Chatham Maritime, Medway
01634 890 421
www.dickensworld.co.uk
adults £20, children £10

TO celebrate the fourth anniversary of Dickens World, the venue has announced the introduction of its new annual pass.
Anyone who buys an annual pass will be able to visit Dickens World throughout the year free of charge.
General manager Victoria Melhuish said: "We wanted a way to thank all of those visitors who have supported us in our first three years.
"From regular feedback, this is something that our regular visitors have asked for and therefore this is our way of thanking them."
Dickens World opened in May 2007 and is themed on the life, books and times of one of Britain's best-loved authors, Charles Dickens.
The author is already synonomous with Medway, having spent many years living in and visiting the towns.
The theme park takes visitors on a fun and fascinating journey of his works as they step into Dickensian England and are immersed in the urban streets, sounds and smells of the early 19th century.
There is a host of shows and a cast of colourful nice and nasty Dickens characters to meet and get to know.
The park has something to offer adults and children of all ages.
The introductory offer of the annual pass will cost adults £20 and children £10.

Air show
Airfix kits and Red Arrows

Margate seafront
Sunday, June 19
10.30am - 6pm
01843 577577

MARGATE'S Big Event is flying into a new location this year... the town's main beach.
The Avro Vulcan bomber, arguably the world's greatest aircraft, and the Red Arrows display team will be the main stars of the Airfix Air Show.
The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will be returning to the town again, while the Tigers parachute team will jump into the sea off Margate Main Sands.
On the ground, visitors can enjoy a selection of live bands, catering for all tastes and ages, and a fairground offering white-knuckle rides.
You can enjoy traditional seaside fun and taster sports sessions on the beach.
The Hornby Village will be beside the Clock Tower, along with an Airfix Make-and-Paint area for families, as well as a Hornby layout and Scalextric track.
Darrell Burge from Hornby said: "Hornby Hobbies Ltd are very pleased to have the Airfix brand as the main sponsor of this event in Margate to cement the strong local links with the Isle of Thanet."

Kind of magic
Edge into the dragon's lair

Bodiam Castle
Saturday to Sunday, June 25-26
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
01589 830196

BEWARE Bodiam Castle's Dragon's Lair weekend.
Hosted byAlchemy Entertainments, the weekend will fuel imaginations as visitors of all ages take part in the activities.
The Medieval ruins form the perfect backdrop for the story-telling sessions, when the teams bring to life ancient tales about these fierce, fire-breathing creatures.
From the serpents of China and Wales to the Black Dragon Of The North, or the fate of Stoorworm, there are plenty of adventures to unfold.
Look out for the magnificent red-and-gold dragon as he weaves through the castle ruins and grounds during the Dragon Procession with the Dragon Lord. Visitors can explore the castle ruins and grounds, where there is a wealth of historical features to enjoy, including the battlements and old portcullis.
Castle tickets are priced at £6.80 for adults, £3.40 for children, or £18 for a family.

THE
WEDDING SHOW
Leeds Castle, Kent

SATURDAY 15TH & SUNDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2011
10AM - 5PM DAILY

Held over two days in a luxurious grand marquee within the grounds of Leeds Castle, The Wedding Show gives brides the opportunity to meet the suppliers who will help to create their dream wedding.

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Photograph by Karl Grant, Camera Press London

NEW
2011 wedding magazine covering Kent. For more information call **01303 817164**

THE CATWALK

There are four magical and inspirational catwalk shows on each of the two days with wondrous collections of exquisite bridal designs, couture, ladies fashions, lingerie and men's attire.

On both days TV celebrity Claire Sweeney will be hosting two fabulous catwalk shows.

The shows are co-ordinated and professionally choreographed creating the 'wow factor'.

BOOK TICKETS ONLINE www.kentnews.co.uk/weddings
For EXHIBITOR INFORMATION contact Liz Hare on 01303 817172 or email liz.hare@archant.co.uk

LEEDS & CASTLE KENT, ENGLAND | KENT BRIDE MAGAZINE | Pure Weddings | Kent on Saturday | Kent on Sunday | Organised by ARCHANT

Giant Craft Fair
At the Rare Breeds Centre
Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th June

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- Displays and demonstrations
- Entry to the Rare Breeds Centre & Craft Fair included in your specially discounted entry price *see below*
- Grand National Pig Race at 3.15pm
- Refreshments, restaurant & BBQ
- Daily meet the animals & falcons encounter sessions

... and lots, lots more

Over the craft weekend of the 25th and 26th June entry to the whole of the Rare Breeds Centre attraction **AND** the Craft Fair is just £5 for children and adults with under 3s coming in for free.

No other discounts or concessions are available

• Stalls still available •
for more information, call Nikki 01233 861508
Open from 10.30am everyday J10 of M20
on the B2067 between Hamstreet & Woodchurch
Visit www.rarebreeds.org.uk

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

Youth project
Putting the A into art

The Stour Centre, Ashford
Open throughout July
www.revealingashford.co.uk

A NEW project is making young people the focal point of an Ashford arts festival. As part of Revealing Ashford, local artist Oliver Winconek is creating a 6ft wooden model of the letter A, representing the town. It will then be covered with images of local young people. Some 200 will be converted into stencils and sprayed back on to the A at a live event at The Stour Centre in July. The model will then be put on display.
The project aims to raise awareness of youth in Ashford and allow them to express themselves. Young people who would like to take part can email a colour head-and-shoulders portrait of themselves (minimum 300dpi) to Ashford-A@hotmail.co.uk.

Touring show
Pieces from the Titanic

Historic Dockyard, Chatham
Fri, July 1, to Fri, September 30
No 1 Smithery Gallery
Included in dockyard admission

TITANIC Honour & Glory, voted by The Times as one of the top five touring exhibitions in the country, is to dock at The Historic Dockyard Chatham next month in the 100th anniversary year of the ship's launch.
The exhibition has never been seen before in Kent and should attract crowds from far and wide. It is an exciting and evocative exhibition that has already visited other parts of the country.
It features many rare items from the liner's passengers and crew members. These include some of the beautiful china dinner plates on which were served the first meals aboard, silverware, letters, linen and crew possessions. Must-see items include a fountain pen which belonged to the captain of the Titanic, together with his Steiff bear and a cup presented to him in 1911 before the fateful voyage.
Together with the Titanic and White Star Line artefacts, the exhibition will incorporate examples of the luxurious interiors of sister ships Olympic and Britannic, as well as props and costumes from James Cameron's blockbuster movie. These include the necklace worn by Kate Winslet and costumes for Leonardo DiCaprio and Billy Zane.
There is also a dressing-up area for young visitors to the exhibition.

Gardens fest
Bright blooms and music

Godinton House, Ashford
Sunday, June 19, to Sunday, June 26
godinton-house-gardens.co.uk

GODINTON House and Gardens Delphinium Festival takes place this month. Sunday (June 19) is Delphinium Society Day. Meet the experts, learn their secrets and buy seeds and plants. Special events and extended opening times will give everyone the opportunity to enjoy this fantastic display and help local causes.
All week the gardens will be open until 8pm. This will allow visitors to enjoy an evening walk through the beautiful gardens and have a picnic.
On Tuesday, June 21, you can improve your painting with artist Kaidy Lewis between 11am and 2pm.
The following day there is an evening of jazz, proceeds going to the Westwell Church Restoration Fund. Tickets cost £10 for adults, while children under 16 enter free, booking via Godinton House. The music starts at 7pm.
Friday, June 24, is National Garden Society Open Day and the week rounds off on Sunday, June 26, with music in the Walled Garden.

One of the most attractive leisure cycle routes in Kent. 43.5km (27 miles) of family-friendly cycling or six shorter themed routes.

Further details from:
Visitor Information Services on 01843 577 577
Email: tourism@thanet.gov.uk www.visitthanet.co.uk

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Real Faces, New Places

Lynda Marshall shares her experience of The Mill Toy and Pedal Car Museum

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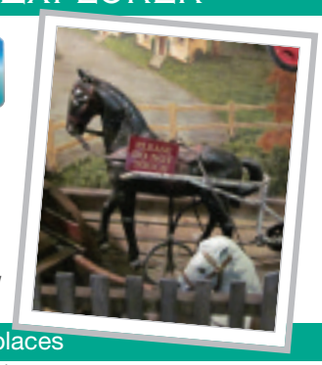

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STAGE & ARTS

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Summer fest
A riot of music and comedy

Sevenoaks Festival, Bligh's Meadow
Sunday, June 19-Sunday, July 3
www.sevenoaksfestival.org.uk

ORGANISERS of Sevenoaks's annual summer festival have put the finishing touches to this year's programme of events. Festival Fair, centred on Bligh's Meadow in the heart of town, opens the 2011 event, complementing the many offerings from local arts groups with keynote celebrity concerts at the Stag theatre, the Plaza Suite and the Pamoja Hall in Sevenoaks School's Performing Arts Centre.
Artistes booked to appear include The Manfreds and The Big Chris Barber Band, comedian Russell Kane, travelling singer Eduardo Niebla, right, and, to conclude, Claire Martin and Sir Richard Rodney Bennett presenting the final concert on Sunday, July 3, at the Pamoja Hall.

Art display
Artists show for launch

Space Gallery, Folkestone
Until Sunday, July 10
Open Wednesday-Sunday, 10am-4pm

AS part of its inaugural Annual Realism Convention (ARC) and launch exhibition, the new Space Gallery is showing two local artists with worldwide acclaim, Leigh Mulley and Charlotte Harris. Leigh Mulley is a full-time artist living and working in Folkestone.
She has exhibited her work across the UK and in New York and has work in several private collections.
She paints in a classic, realist style. Her paintings are familiar and nostalgic, with attention to detail, scale, perspective and depth of colour.
Space is a new independent art gallery and space in the creative quarter of the seaside town.

Folk-singer
Schmidt aims to win us over

Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks
Saturday, July 2, 7.30pm
01732 450175
www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk

TEXAS folk-singer Danny Schmidt is heading to the Stag theatre in Sevenoaks as part of a whirlwind tour of the UK. Since the release of his debut album Forest Rose To Sing, Schmidt has begun to emerge from the underground music scene in America.
The album had good reviews and charted for months on folk and Americana radio, making the Best of 2009 list and becoming the second-most-played folk album that year. Now, with the release of his new album, Man Of Many Moons, he is keen to crack Britain.
It is hoped that the acoustic-heavy album will hope to kick-start his quest for fans here. He said: "It's, for the most part, me and my guitar and the songs. That was the vision going in, and that's what we managed to stick with throughout the process."
Recorded by Keith Gary at Blue Rock Studio in Wimberley, Texas, the album features guest appearances by guitarist Will Sexton (Waylon Jennings, Roky Erickson) and top folk-singer Raina Rose.

Classic piano
Burlesque on the ivories

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Friday, July 1, 7.45pm
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk
01322 220000

FINISHING with a flourish is taken to a whole new level as supremely talented pianist Chrys Columbine performs Chopin's Nocturne in C-sharp minor like you've never seen it before.
An Evening Of Burlesque features Columbine addressing the piano dressed in Victorian-style costume.
At the piece's climax the elegant pianist rises to take a bow wearing considerably less than she began with.
The only artiste combining the art of burlesque with classical piano, she began piano lessons aged 11 and graduated from university with a music degree. Columbine has performed throughout the world, from Sydney to Southampton and all points between. Today she is a leading lady in the new Evening Of Burlesque stage show, which is on a nationwide tour, having been in London's West End and on national TV.
Columbine said: "My routines can include fan dances, a Jessica Rabbit-based character, a Beethoven piano cadenza, Leonard Cohen's Dance Me To The End Of Love and The Birth Of Venus, inspired by Sandro Botticelli's painting. The appeal of burlesque has exploded in recent months. There is a genuine fascination in the way women dressed in years past.
Columbine is just one of the performers appearing in An Evening Of Burlesque.

School stories
Tales from a raconteur

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, June 25
01892 530613

SPEND a heart-warming evening with Gervase Phinn, one of Britain's greatest comic writers and raconteurs, who has been touring and selling out theatres across the country for some eight years.
Comedian, author, poet, broadcaster, lecturer, educational guru, after-dinner speaker and born raconteur... Gervase is perhaps best known for his series of five Dales books for Penguin.
Affectionately dubbed 'the James Herriot of schools', his warm-hearted reminiscences about the life of a schools inspector in the Yorkshire Dales have featured heavily in Radio 4's Book Of The Week and Book At Bedtime slots.
He has also written a range of academic books, children's poetry and fiction, has made numerous TV and radio appearances, and has spent the last six years developing a stand-up routine based on his comprehensive knowledge of life in and around education.

Phinn also writes a weekly column for the Yorkshire Post and a monthly piece for The Countryman magazine as well as occasional pieces for Dalesman, Down Your Way, the Daily Mail, the Daily Express and the Times Educational Supplement.
He also has two books out or on the way. Out Of The Woods But Not Over The Hill features him writing with warmth and wit about the pleasures and pains of growing older, while his first novel, Little School In The Dales, due for release in August, is a funny and touching tale set in a Yorkshire primary school.
At the Assembly Hall he will share his tales of life as a schools inspector in the Yorkshire Dales. For fans of his radio appearances, this unique storyteller is even better live. Tickets cost £16.

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FILMS

OUR TOP FIVE

1 Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2: Rodrick Rules (U) Based on Jeff Kinney's best-selling book, David Bowers's sequel continues the trials of wise-cracking tyke Greg Heffley. Seventh grader Greg (Zachary Gordon) thinks all of his problems are solved now he's moved up a year at Westmore School. Alas, insults in the corridor are nothing compared to the bullying he suffers at home from brother Rodrick (Devon Bostick).

2 The Hangover Part II (15) The sequel to the hit 2009 comedy sees the same characters in a similar nightmare scenario. Dentist Stu Price (Ed Helms) is set to marry Lauren (Jamie Chung) in a traditional ceremony in Thailand. Best friends Phil Wenneck (Bradley Cooper), Doug Billings (Justin Bartha) and Alan Garner (Zach Galifianakis) are invited and after a while start the alcohol-and-drug-fuelled bender...

3 Pirates Of The Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (12A) Johnny Depp hoists the mainsail once again. This time, Jack Sparrow joins forces with Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) to locate the Fountain Of Youth. The quest becomes infinitely more perilous when Jack is forced aboard the Queen Anne's Revenge captained by legendary pirate Blackbeard (Ian McShane). Look out for Keith Richards!

4 Win win (15) Mike Flaherty (Paul Giamatti) is struggling to survive in the harsh economic climate. He thinks his prayers have been answered when he agrees to act as legal guardian to elderly client Leo (Burt Young), who has early Alzheimer's - a role which brings in a monthly stipend of 1,500 dollars. Matters become complicated when Leo's grandson Kyle (Alex Shaffer) turns up, having run away.

5 Attack The Block (15) Trainee nurse Sam (Jodie Whittaker) is mugged on her way home by wayward lads Moses (John Boyega), Pest (Alex Esmail) and Dennis (Franz Drameh). The assault is cut short by a meteor shower and when the youths investigate, they come face to snout with a creature from another world. A second downpour of meteors heralds more creatures and the lads grab their weapons ready for action.

NEW RELEASES

X-Men: First Class

12A, 131mins

VERY good things come to those who wait. Thankfully, British director Matthew Vaughn, who lifted spirits last year with the foul-mouthed Kick-Ass, repeats the feat with this exhilarating, action-packed prequel based on the hugely popular Marvel Comics.

After the lukewarm reception to spin-off X-Men Origins: Wolverine, Vaughn delivers a sleek and satisfying opening chapter that establishes the mythology of the characters and provides tantalising glimpses of where the series can go next.

The film opens in 1944 Poland, with young Erik Lehnsherr (Michael Fassbender) unlocking his devastating power of magnetism thanks to the provocation of sadistic concentration-camp commandant (Kevin Bacon).

At the same time in Westchester, New York, young telepath Charles Xavier (James McAvoy) meets shape-shifter Raven Darkholme (Jennifer Lawrence) and they become close friends.

Fast-forward to 1962 and Erik is hunting down the commandant to exact revenge for his parents. "Let's just say I'm Frankenstein's monster and I'm looking for my creator," he tells a henchman. It transpires that the German officer has reinvented himself as power-hungry globe-trotter Sebastian Shaw, who intends to spark nuclear war between Russia and America aided by mutant sidekicks Emma Frost (January Jones), Azazel (Jason Flemyng) and Riptide (Alex Gonzalez).

Standing in his way are Charles, Raven and five gifted mutants – Angel (Zoe Kravitz), Banshee (Caleb Landry Jones), Beast (Nicholas Hoult), Darwin (Edi Gathegi) and Havok (Lucas Till). At first Charles and Erik work together to defeat Sebastian, their common enemy. However, a rift opens between the mutant leaders, lighting the fuse on the brutal and bloody war between the X-Men and Magneto's brotherhood.

This is a terrific reinvention, adhering closely to the comics to appease fans while entertaining cinema audiences with a tight script, snappy editing and directorial brio.

McAvoy and Fassbender are assured actors, capable of heartbreaking emotion, and there are plenty of tears here as nuclear war looms. The only quibble is Fassbender's wavering accent, which jigs from Europe to County Kerry and resonates so strongly of the Emerald Isle by the closing frames that you have to question if the Polish prologue was fantasy.

Senna

12A, 106mins

IN the high-speed world of Formula 1 racing, German driver Michael Schumacher is considered by many pundits to be the greatest athlete on four wheels, winning the World Championship a record seven times.

His dominance began in 1994, but that season will be remembered less for Schumacher taking the championship ahead of Damon Hill and more for the loss of Formula 1's arguably greatest and most unpredictable talent.

On Friday, April 29, that year at the San Marino Grand Prix, Rubens Barrichello was badly injured in the Friday qualifying session and the next day in final qualifying, Austrian driver Roland Ratzenberger lost his life navigating the Villeneuve curve at high speed. During the main race on Sunday, three-time champion Ayrton Senna's car left the track after the Tamburello corner, colliding with a concrete wall. He died soon after.

Made with the blessing of Senna's family and the cooperation of Bernie Ecclestone, Asif Kapadia's documentary pays glowing tribute to this handsome and charismatic sportsman.

Painstakingly constructed from hours of race footage, photographs, interviews and archive material, Senna celebrates the life of the Brazilian Formula 1 driver, whose death sparked a radical overhaul of safety procedures.

CINEMAS

ASHFORD CINEWORLD MULTIPLEX: Eureka Leisure Park. Box office 0871 2208000

BECKENHAM ODEON: High Street. Box office 0871 2244007

BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD: 28 The Broadway. Box office 020 83031550

BLUEWATER SHOWCASE WATER CIRCUS: South Village. Box office 0871 2201000

BROADSTAIRS PALACE CINEMA: Harbour Street. Box office 01843 865726

BROMLEY EMPIRE: 242 High Street. Box office 0870 5050007

CANTERBURY ODEON ST: George's Place. Box office 0871 2244007

CHATHAM CENTRAL THEATRE: 170 High Street. Box office 01634 338338

DOVER SILVER SCREEN: Market Square. Box office 01304 228000

FAVERSHAM ROYAL: 9 Market Place. Box office 01795 591211

FOLKESTONE SILVER SCREEN: Guildhall Street. Box office 01303 221230

GULBENKIAN THEATRE: University of Kent. Box office 01227 769075

HAWKHURST KINO: Victoria Hall, Rye Road. Box office 01580 754321

HERNE BAY KAVANAGH: Herne Bay Leisure Centre. Box office 01227 365676

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RAMSGATE GRANVILLE: Victoria Parade. Box office 01843 591750

ROCHESTER CINEWORLD: Multiplex Medway Valley Park. Box office 08701 560568

SANDWICH EMPIRE: Delf Street. Box office 01304 620480

STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE: Stag Theatre, London Road. Box office 01732 450175

TRINITY ARTS CENTRE: Church Road, Tunbridge Wells. Box office 01892 678678

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ODEON: Knights Way. Box office 0871 22 44007

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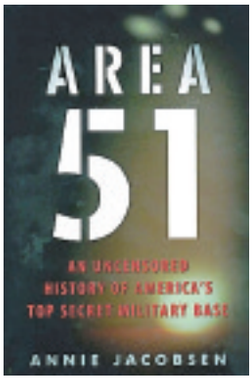

Area 51

Annie Jacobson

Orion Books, £20

AREA 51 is a nickname for a military base located in the southern portion of Nevada in the western United States – in fact, it's 83 miles north-north-west of downtown Las Vegas.

Situated at its centre on the southern shore of Groom Lake is a large secretive military airfield. The base's primary purpose seems to be to support development and the testing of experimental aircraft and weapons systems.

Its secretive nature and undoubted connection to classified aircraft research, together with reports of unusual phenomena, have led Area 51 to become the focus of modern UFO and conspiracy theories. Some of the activities mentioned in such theories at Area 51 include the storage, examination and reverse engineering of crashed alien spacecraft, including material supposedly recovered at Roswell; the study of their occupants, living and dead; and the manufacture of aircraft based on alien technology.

Other conspiracy theories include meetings or joint undertakings with extraterrestrials, development of exotic energy weapons, or methods of weather control.

Area 51, An Uncensored History Of America's Top Secret Military Base, by LA Times reporter Annie Jacobsen, is based on interviews with service personnel based there and tells of its role in testing nuclear weapons, building advanced jet aircraft and as a centre for developments in the 'war on terror'.

These include constructing a mock-up of one of the compounds used by Osama bin Laden prior to 9/11.

Jacobsen had unprecedented access to former workers at the site, who filled her notebooks with details about secret doings (some now unclassified) surrounding everything from atomic bomb blasts to the quest for high-altitude surveillance planes to contemporary stealth technology.

The work is deeply researched and documented through a patchwork of declassified reports that must have been numbing to navigate. Jacobsen converts all that material into a highly readable history that is a dream for aviation and military buffs, packed with anecdotes and characters who built their careers largely among US government 'black' operations so secret that even the wives of the participants didn't know what they did for a living.

There also are chilling depictions of the early atomic blasts, which in the years after the Second World War became something of a Las Vegas tourist attraction as people flocked to watch the mushroom cloud grow above the horizon.

All the tales are fascinating – but absolutely nothing compared with the revelations about what the author was told about Roswell and the supposed crashed alien spacecraft and the retrieval of small humanoid bodies.

What Jacobsen outlines makes the most outlandish episode of The X-Files seem understated. And if that won't get you reading this book, nothing will. Alternatively, you can watch some US TV as Jacobson is doing the rounds of chat shows and this revelation is her star turn.

To End All Wars

Adam Hochschild

Macmillan, £20

A PASSIONATE work in which the author argues that those whose voices were raised in opposition to the conflict of 1914-18 deserve respect and should be acknowledged.

As those who were executed for desertion from the trenches and others who suffered what was then called 'shellshock' have become viewed sympathetically in recent years, this is a timely work.

It focuses on conscientious objectors and those in the public eye who opposed the war.

These included James Keir Hardy, an Independent Labour MP who stated publicly that British workers had no quarrel with their German counterparts. He was stunned when an anti-war meeting was drowned out by choruses of Rule Britannia.

The book explores the theme of how it is possible to oppose the war itself but still back the people who are fighting.

Government action against those who were against the war is also featured, including the apparent framing by Special Branch police officers of a family who gave shelter to men fleeing conscription.

A welcome addition to the mass of literature about the war with a very unusual slant.

The Jewel Hunter

Chris Gooddie

WildGuides, £17.99

THERE is today an extraordinary wealth of bird books available to feed the voracious literary hunger of the nation's army of birders... although on reflection 'wealth' is perhaps the wrong word.

Many of these volumes are a rehash of a rehash of a rehash of something that has gone (thankfully) before. A name-check of the 'authors', some of whom appear to deliver new books on a near-daily basis, gives an an idea of what to avoid. Nevertheless, I have sympathy for those trying to choose a present of worth for a birding lover or relative.

To that end, I'd like to help: buy this book.

The Jewel Hunter is the tale of Chris Gooddie, a man who jacks in his comfortable if tedious job in a bid to see all the pittas in the world.

Pittas are some of the most fantastic-looking birds in the world. They are also some of the most difficult to see, spending much of their time on the dark forest floors of Africa, Australia and Asia.

Gooddie has set himself a stiff challenge, and this work is a smartly-told and entertaining account of his adventures. His new career may just have written itself.

MUSIC

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

New venue
Acts revealed to boost scene

St Mary's Church, Ashford
See this website for dates:
www.revelationstmarys.co.uk

THE first performance programme for Ashford's new sacred and shared arts space at St Mary's Church, has been revealed.

Revelation St Mary's is the inaugural arts programme, offering a series of events to boost the borough's arts scene and celebrate the completed refurbishment and reworking of one of Ashford's best-loved historical landmarks.

Acts coming to the new arts space include Super Furry Animals' front-man Gruff Rhys, below, Radio 2 multi-award-winner Chris Wood and folk-singer Johnny Flynn.

The season also includes the two-man show of former MP Tony Benn and folk-singer Roy Bailey, while there will be a one-off concert by London's Aurora Orchestra.

Tickets are available at www.ticketweb.co.uk.

The church is looking for volunteers to help run the venue. For an application pack, phone 01233 665535.

Free music
Festival has extra stage

Victoria Park, Ashford
Sunday, July 24
www.ashford.gov.uk/create

ASHFORD'S free music festival will have a new addition in 2011, with a fourth stage.

The Create Festival is expected to attract more than 11,000 people through the day, making it one of the biggest free music festivals in the South East.

Along with the usual array of stalls and entertainment to accompany the music, new for 2011 is the K Stage, sponsored by K College.

The festival headliners are the winners of Glastonbury's emerging-talent competition, Ellen and the Escapades, above.

Ashford arts development officer Chris Dixon said: "This new support we are receiving from K College means that the event can continue to grow. Create is well valued by local residents and businesses."

Lunch date
Acker Bill and his jazz band

Ramada Maidstone, Hollingbourne
Sunday, June 26
01622 632252

JAZZ legend Acker Bilk will entertain diners at the Ramada Maidstone when he and his Paramount Jazz Band play some of world's favourite numbers.

Tickets for the gig are priced at £32.50 per person or £280 for a table of 10 – a three-course lunch is included. And the really good news is that if you buy one ticket, you get one free! Email events.maidstone@ramadajarvis.co.uk, or phone the number above.

FASHION

Next outfit
The complete get-up to draw admiring glances everywhere you go – Next knows how to turn heads this summer
Denim shirt £28
Skirt £12
Bra £12
Canvas hi tops £22
Socks (set of 4) £14
Watch £25
www.next.co.uk

It's flaming June at last and the summer is well and truly here. But there is still time to brighten up your wardrobe to make sure you look and feel at your very best for the rest of the smmer months. Here are some ideas for leisure wear and for the beach – all very much up-to-date apart from a few retro ideas which will bring back memories of happy holidays gone by.

Tropical-print swimsuit
This design looks just as good on the beach at Herne Bay or Margate as it would in St Lucia or the Seychelles
£40
www.simplyyours.co.uk

80s Mary Quant swimsuit
Just the thing for the beach from the days of big hair and shoulder pads
£12
www.itsvintagedarling.com

50s striped top
Back to the days of Grease and the Fonz with this retro garment
£8.99
www.internationale.co.uk

Fashion for summer

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

New Look outfit
Matching set of items from New Look which will suit all sorts of summer fun activities – crowned by a bowler hat with cape to match
Hat £9.99
Shirt £21.99
Print dress £19.99
Cape £34.99
Boots £34.99
Socks £2.99
www.newlook.co.uk

Kimono
Just thing for beach or music festival... and out this month
£45
www.asos.com

Ripped shorts
Get the punk look without having to do your own ripping and bring back the late 70s
£14
www.tesco.com

One-shoulder dress
Smooth and stylish for cocktail hour
£18.99
www.newlook.co.uk

Lace dress
Cool and stylish for evening wear and easy to slip on over a bikini
£25
www.primark.co.uk

Sequin dress
Together with a matching set of peep-toe heels, just the thing for an outdoor soiree
Dress £44.99 **Shoes £32.99**
www.newlook.co.uk

HOMES

We spend a large portion of our lives in bed, which means the state of our bedrooms has a big influence on how well we relax – decluttering with a new wardrobe could be the answer you've been seeking

THE sun has been shining (sometimes), but if you're still fighting your way through a wardrobe of woollen jumpers and battling past your long winter coats, then what better way to get organised for summer than by adding fitted furniture or a luxurious walk-in wardrobe to your bedroom?

Sharps Bedrooms, with outlets in Folkestone, Ramsgate, Gillingham, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Aylesford, has a range of fitted designs.

Gary Hunt, bedroom planning expert at Sharps, commented on making the most of space in the bedroom: "Most of us long for a spacious bedroom that we can be proud of – however, the reality is often very different.

"Lack of space and daily clutter mean that keeping a small bedroom organised can be tricky. However, fitted furniture is a versatile solution that can be adapted to suit both your room and your lifestyle needs.

"Suitable for all bedrooms, even those with awkward corners or sloping ceilings, fitted wardrobes make the most of every inch of available space, and while they have long been considered more traditional in terms of style, there is now a much wider range to choose from, including some highly contemporary designs.

"The beauty of bespoke fitted furniture is the clever internal storage solutions available. Opt

Bedrooms

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for adjustable shelves, hanging rails, pull-out shoe, trouser and tie racks in your wardrobes to keep clothes in their place, built-in drawers and dressing tables to conceal belongings from view and over-bed storage to store large or awkward items.

"If you're looking to transform your small bedroom and make the most of every corner, then it's advisable to consult a design expert who can advise you on the best possible storage arrangements so that every cupboard and drawer is used to its best."

Top tips include:

- Fitted wardrobes are the perfect way to make the most of your available space as they can be designed to fit any shape. Awkward corners, alcoves and sloping ceilings are all easily dealt with and Sharps also offers 45-degree end-wardrobes, which create a neat finish and offer that extra bit of storage.
- Adjustable shelves and hanging rails are ideal for changing seasons as your storage – and your wardrobe – needs tend to change with the weather. The Sharps HighLine range offers a choice of adjustable drawers, hanging rails and shelf options.
- Make the most of clever internal features such as hidden laundry baskets, which help to create a clutter-free room where everything has its place. Built-in shoe racks allow easy storage, keeping your shoes immaculate and making them far easier to find. Trousers and ties can be stored on pull-out racks to keep them neatly pressed. Adjustable drawers and baskets are perfect for smaller items such as make-up and jewellery.
- Over-the-bed cupboards capitalise on space which would otherwise be unused. Neat cupboards above the bed are ideal for items to which which you don't need constant access.
- A window seat is an attractive and extremely practical option. Perfect for large, bulky items such as blankets, or as a clever alternative to a toy chest in a children's bedroom.

Sharps is the UK's leading fitted bedroom furniture specialist, offering an all-inclusive service from design right to installation. Each bedroom is styled around you.

A fully-fitted Sharps bedroom starts at £1,800, including design, manufacture, delivery and installation.

To request the latest brochure or arrange a free design consultation, phone 0800 9178 178 or visit www.sharps.co.uk.

■ Coming in all shapes and sizes – and fitting into all shapes and sizes too – fitted furniture could be just the thing to clear some space in your bedroom and help you drift off into a nice relaxing sleep

Kent's finest property of the week

More local properties @ homes24.co.uk
it's property for Kent

undergoing radical improvements thanks to the work of the Creative Foundation, which is spearheading an arts-led regeneration.

New restaurants are opening on a regular basis and the newly-opened Quarterhouse has seen an influx of bands and performers to complement those who take to the stage at the Leas Cliff Hall.

This summer is also seeing the second Folkestone Triennial Art Festival, which attracts the work of world-class artists, designers and sculptors from across the globe.

Sally Jinks, of Smith-Woolley & Perry, said: "This truly lovely family home offers prospective purchasers a unique opportunity with its versatile living arrangements."

An entrance porch and vestibule area, with a cloakroom and toilet, leads through to the hallway. The downstairs accommodation includes three reception rooms, a sitting room area with an attractive fireplace set in carved wood, a stripped-wood floor, a half-glazed door leading through to a conservatory, and an archway to the drawing-room area, which has a decorative marble fireplace with a living-flame coal-effect gas stove, fitted bookshelves and cupboards.

There is also a dining room with double casement doors leading out to the garden, a study, kitchen/breakfast room and utility area.

The first floor comprises a landing with an attractive leaded-light window and built-in wardrobe cupboards and fitted bookshelves. This residence has seven bedrooms: bedrooms one and three lead out on to a balcony and bedroom three is also en-suite. There is also a family bathroom and separate toilet, shower room and a box room/potential bathroom.

There is a delightful large, west-facing, mature garden to the rear of the property encompassing, among other features, a lovely patio area with a small pergola covered in climbing roses and clematis, providing an enjoyable and sunny place to sit or entertain.

A pretty sunken garden occupies the far side with a small circular pond as a centrepiece, and an appealing seating arbour settles here, giving a pleasing outlook over the garden and lawn.

A path to the side leads through an attractive assortment of mature trees and planting.

The front garden is partly laid to lawn with a sweeping in-and-out drive and double garage.

Fully-illustrated details with floor plans are available from Smith-Woolley & Perry. Phone the Folkestone office on 01303 226622, or email sales@swanp.co.uk.

HOMES

Desirably elegant home

Dixwell Road, Folkestone

£745,000

■ ENTRANCE HALL ■ THREE RECEPTIONS ■ SITTING ROOM ■ CONSERVATORY ■ DRAWING ROOM ■ DINING ROOM ■ STUDY ■ KITCHEN ■ SEVEN BEDROOMS ■ FAMILY BATHROOM ■ LARGE GARDEN

THIS home at 5 Dixwell Road is an impressive and substantial seven-bedroom detached family house of character and well-proportioned accommodation in the heart of the town's West End. It is within easy walking distance of the seashore and the high-speed rail link to London offering a journey time of less than one hour to London St Pancras.

Also, just minutes away, is the Channel Tunnel terminal at Cheriton, where car-carrying trains reach the Continent in 30 minutes.

This is a highly desirable residence standing in one of the most sought-after locations in Folkestone. It is an elegant property believed to have been built around the 1920s of brick with rendered colour-washed elevations under a tiled roof.

The majority of the windows have been replaced with sealed units and the house was re-roofed in 2007.

The home is close to the popular Leas in Folkestone, a town which is currently

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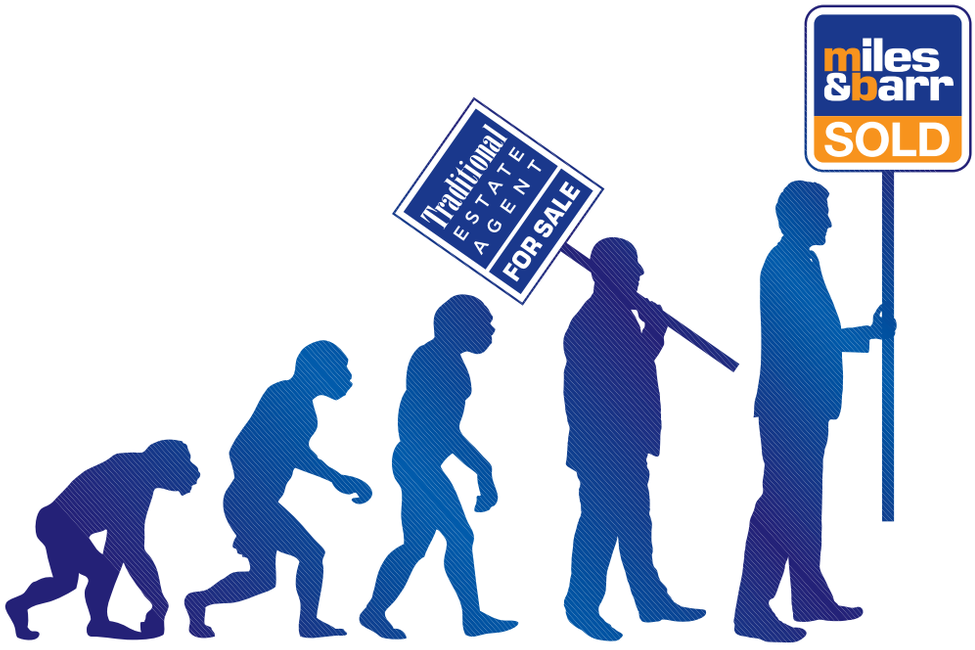

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Folkestone property report

Visit homes24.co.uk it's property for Kent

UPTURN: Seafront flats near the harbour are among the quickest-selling properties in Folkestone

HS1 holds the key to brighter future

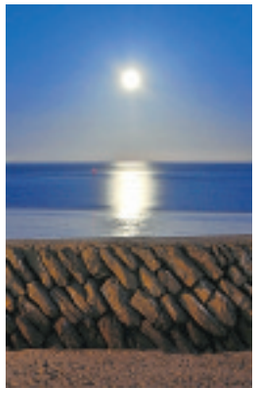
PROPERTY prices in Folkestone have been buoyed by the high-speed rail link effect.

With the coastal town now less than an hour away from London by train, and significant private investment, demand for sales and rentals has risen steadily.

H Wald & Co estate agent Karen Strawson said that HS1 was spearheading an upturn in property values across the market.

"Prices are expected to rise as the area is enjoying a resurgence of gourmet restaurants and an exciting programme of activities planned for the summer and beyond," she said.

"The new high-speed rail link enables commuters to reach St Pancras in just 57 minutes – this is having a huge effect."



Strawson said mid-market properties were the strongest sellers, with those at each end of the spectrum struggling to attract much interest. "Traditional, older-style two- to three-bedroom terraced houses and seafront flats are selling well," she said.

"Family-sized houses in the West End of Folkestone, near the train station, also always attract interest. Location is a priority for prospective purchasers. Historic Folkestone and neighbouring Sandgate are still very popular for residential and holiday-home properties, despite the recession.

"The rental market is booming and demand exceeds supply. Prospective tenants are seeking houses and flats alike and 'Buy to Let' is still a popular option.

"Realistically, the market is back to 2006 levels and one- or two-bedroom flats and higher-end properties are not moving so quickly."

The average property price in Folkestone is about £170,000, above that of fellow coastal towns Margate (£144,000) and Ramsgate (148,000) but below Broadstairs (£206,000)

SPOTLIGHT ON FOLKESTONE

What makes it special

THE Leas is one of the finest cliff-top promenades in the South East, while the seaside gardens below have also become a popular visitor attraction.

The town is home to a lot of beautiful Georgian architecture. The Creative Foundation has helped give the town a new lease of life, regenerating both of which The Old High Street and Tontine Street, which are now home to galleries, restaurants and specialist stores.

Folkestone is also known for its Triennial, held every three years, which has grown to become one of the biggest art festivals in the UK and attracts performers from across the globe. The Battle of Britian monument is just two miles away at Capel-le-Ferne, while a number of good bars, galleries and attractive independent shops can be found in Sandgate.

Room to improve

PLANS to develop the harbour and seafront at the bottom of the Leas lift area and nearby flats have been slow to get going. The regeneration work that has been carried out in parts of Folkestone has been encouraging – there just needs to be more of it and it needs to be carried out quickly.

Procrastination could bring the regeneration positivity that has built slowly in the town to a swift end. The closure of the ferry service to France was also a serious blow. The re-establishment of this link could breathe new life into the town.

The road network is also an issue, being prone to congestion. Visitors often complain that the one-way system is difficult to negotiate and signage is poor.

Much of the Shepway district has suffered ugly urban sprawl.

Prices

THE average property price in Folkestone is around £170,000, although would-be homeowners can expect to pay more for homes in historic Folkestone, in the West End of the town and neighbouring Sandgate.

Shops

BOUVERIE Place is a new shopping centre that will hopefully draw some big-name retailers to the town. Primark opened a new store in September 2010, seeing footfall of shoppers double. TK Maxx is opening a store in September. Sandgate Road has a number of main high-street stores such as Smiths, Boots and Waterstones. Tontine Street and The Old High Street have some quirky stores selling musical instruments, paintings, other artworks and antiques.

Schools

FOLKESTONE is home to two selective secondary schools, Harvey Grammar School For Boys and Folkestone School For Girls. There is a number of good primary schools in the towns, including Sandgate, All Souls CoE and Hawkinge. Further education is provided at University Centre Folkestone, a joint initiative between Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich.

Connections

HYTHE, Dymchurch and St Mary's Bay are among the coastal destinations to the south of Folkestone along the A259. Dover can be reached by taking the A20 in the opposite direction. For those looking to escape the coast, the M20 is the best option, leading into the heart of Kent and on up to London.

What's on

THE Leas Cliff Hall is the town's biggest cultural venue, playing host to a range of top acts from the music, theatre and stand-up comedy worlds. However, its No 1 one spot is being challenged by Quarterhouse, in the heart of the Creative Quarter. The Folkestone Triennial, which starts at the end of this month, will be worth a look for all arts fans across the region and further afield.

Around and about

HONOUR the brave pilots who gave their lives to protect our shores at the Battle of Britain memorial at Capel-le-Ferne. A great family day can be had at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe.

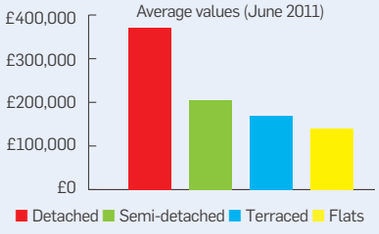
NEXT WEEK: PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT FOCUSES ON **SEVENOAKS**

HOME VALUES IN KENT

WHAT IS THE ZED-INDEX!

The Zed-Index! is the average home value in a given area based on Zoopla Estimates

Kent Zed-Index! £214,360



Area	Turnover	Zed-index!
Ashford	16.2%	£212,592
Aylesford	15.8%	£212,517
Belvedere	17.4%	£163,077
Bexley	15.6%	£286,774
Bexleyheath	16.7%	£234,315
Birchington	20.2%	£188,766
Broadstairs	18.8%	£206,515
Canterbury	15.2%	£224,912
Chatham	17.5%	£159,945
Cranbrook	13.3%	£368,376
Dartford	15.9%	£201,329
Deal	17.4%	£184,048
Dover	14.4%	£153,251
Edenbridge	13.4%	£341,337
Erith	12.7%	£168,565
Faversham	16.4%	£204,352
Folkestone	16.6%	£170,161
Gillingham	16.2%	£161,315
Gravesend	14.2%	£191,166
Greenhithe	18.9%	£188,408
Herne Bay	19.0%	£181,481
Hythe	17.9%	£234,244
Longfield	15.2%	£272,000
Maidstone	15.8%	£219,905
Margate	16.8%	£144,378
New Romney	20.1%	£197,054
Queenborough	12.3%	£109,983
Rainham	13.6%	£180,391
Ramsgate	16.2%	£147,879
Rochester	15.9%	£176,168
Romney Marsh	17.0%	£175,486
Sandwich	16.0%	£228,763
Sevenoaks	16.2%	£446,408
Sheerness	14.8%	£145,668
Sidcup	17.5%	£240,678
Sittingbourne	16.1%	£183,469
Snodland	16.0%	£157,353
Swanley	13.1%	£212,508
Swanscombe	13.3%	£151,504
Tenterden	16.7%	£294,941
Tonbridge	14.6%	£308,843
Tunbridge Wells	18.1%	£302,864
Welling	16.7%	£220,626
West Malling	18.0%	£331,498
Westerham	17.9%	£305,915
Westgate-On-Sea	18.7%	£153,177
Whitstable	19.7%	£230,142

Source: homes24.co.uk/kent

CHAPEL PLACE LIMITED

Land Agents

Tunbridge Wells, Kent
£450,000-£475,000
Single building plot with planning permission for a substantial 3/4 bedroom villa within highly regarded area in town centre

Sheppey, Kent
£400,000
Investment/development opportunity comprising existing bungalow and 5 acres of land with potential STP

Brenchley, Kent
Guide Price £600,000
1 acre plot with planning for a detached house and stunning views over open countryside

Wilmington, Kent
£600,000
Single plot of approx 0.25 acre with planning for a detached 5 bed house of 3,000 sq ft

Broadstairs, Kent
£300,000
0.42 acre site with 18 months option and planning potential for 3 x 3/4 bedroom houses

Charing, Kent
£365,000-£395,000
1 acre plot with planning for a detached barn style property of approx 2,750 sq ft

Folkestone, Kent
Offers Invited
Site with planning permission for 7 apartments – cleared site –

Headcorn, Kent
Guide Price £250,000
Single plot with outline planning permission in sought after residential area in popular village

Brookland, Kent
Offers Invited
Site with planning for 2 x 4 and 2 x 3 bedroom detached houses

Lamberhurst Quarter, Kent
Offers Invited
A fine detached 6 bay period barn with planning consent for conversion for a 3,000 sq ft dwelling

Ramsgate, Kent
£75,000-£85,000
Single plot with planning permission for a detached 4 bedroom house

Walmer, Kent
£450,000
5 bedroom detached house in need of renovation with potential plot to the side, subject to planning (available separately)

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HOMES Buying in Folkestone

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£685,000

Ternhill House
THIS attractive property is situated in the sought-after West End of Folkestone, only a few steps from the famous Leas Promenade, within level walking distance of the town centre and Folkestone West station, where the high- speed rail link is available to St Pancras, as well as regular commuter trains.
Built in an elegant neo-Georgian style, the property has been given a sympathetic, high-quality renovation over recent years.
The accommodation is generously proportioned, with potential for creating an additional bedroom and en-suite in the large roofspace if required, subject to planning permission. An extensive paved, double-entry driveway provides plenty of parking at the front of the house, while the rear boasts a delightfully-secluded garden with paved terrace, low box hedges and a vegetable garden.
AGENT: Lawrence & Co
01303 266 022

Detached neo-Georgian home near Leas Promenade

White House is just ideal for a family

£475,000

Cliff Road
WHITE House is believed to have been built around 1928, with colourwashed elevations under a tiled roof. The ground floor of the four-bedroom house, which enjoys sea views from its elevated position, includes a sitting room, dining room, kitchen and breakfast room, while the bedroom and a family bathroom are on the first floor.
AGENT: Smith-Woolley & Perry
01303 226622

Hillside apartment just short drive from Hythe

£185,000

Woodend
SITUATED in a commanding hillside position and facing south, the property offers wonderful sea and coastal views and yet is only a short drive from Hythe, which offers a number of independent shops and supermarkets.
The groundfloor apartment comprises an entrance hall, open-plan kitchen/living room with integrated appliances and French doors to a paved rear garden, two bedrooms, modern en-suite shower room/toilet and separate bathroom/toilet.
The apartment, which is of brick construction with a painted rendered exterior, is approached via an electric gated entrance up a driveway with both allocated and additional visitor parking. It is deal for a young commuter or professional couple.
AGENT: Champion and Co
01303 260666

Stunning sea views from Sandgate pad

£289,950

Rodney Court
SEA-LOVERS are urged to take a look at this superb four-bedroom town house in the fantastic location of Prospect Road, Sandgate.
The property is decorated to a high standard throughout and boasts a lounge with balcony, separate dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, family bathroom and en-suite to the master bedroom, utility room and four large bedrooms.
Additional benefits include a garage, off-road parking, gas central-heating, double-glazing and superb views across the English Channel towards France.
AGENT Miles & Barr
01303 255335

Well-placed Hawkinge home

£309,995

Webster Way
THIS executive-style detached house forms part of an exclusive modern village development completed by Pentland Homes some 10 years ago, convenient for all Hawkinge amenities.
Folkestone town centre is about three miles distant, while Canterbury is 11 miles away.
From Folkestone there are fast-train services to London (57 minutes) and M20 connections. The house is of distinctive brick and weatherboard elevations under a pitched, tiled roof.
The stylish interior features natural wood joinery and is finished to a high specification.
AGENT: H Wald & Co
01303 212 020

Cedar-Gate Court

Hollow Lane • Snodland • Kent

Cedar-Gate Court is a superb gated development of just four 4 bedroom detached houses set in the village of Snodland.

Spacious accommodation and a high specification within an exclusive setting.

Conveniently located off the A228 leading to both the M20 and M2, giving good access to London and parts of Kent. Snodland train station provides services to St Pancreas in less than 50 mins*.

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25th & 26th June

to see these lovely homes or call us for further information or directions

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HOMES Renting in Folkestone

More local properties @ homes24.co.uk
it's property for Kent

Snap up luxury home

£1,100pcm

Trunley Way, Hawkinge
DO NOT miss out on this fantastic detached family home in Trunley Way, Hawkinge, which is available to rent immediately. This beautiful new-build Bovis home was only completed in 2010 and is presented to a high standard throughout. The large and luxurious property consists of a modern fully-integrated kitchen, lounge, dining room, downstairs cloakroom/toilet, six bedrooms – three of which are en-suite – family bathroom and a landscaped rear garden, with off-street parking in front of the tandem garage.
AGENT: Your Move
01303 850085

Large bedrooms in Hawkinge semi

£750 pcm

Mill Lane, Hawkinge
TAKE a look at this well-presented three-bed semi-detached house in the sought-after location of Hawkinge. The unfurnished accommodation comprises three spacious double bedrooms; large kitchen with gas hob, electric oven, washing machine and space for fridge-freezer; modern family bathroom; and good-sized rear garden. There is also off-road parking for three vehicles.
AGENT: Browns
01303 892000

Redecorated one-bedroom first-floor flat

£575 pcm

Hillside Street, Hythe
THIS unfurnished one-bedroom first-floor flat at The Dene has undergone a complete redecoration and has new carpets throughout, apart from laminate flooring in the kitchen. The accommodation includes a reception room, fitted kitchen, double bedroom and en-suite bathroom with bath and shower. There is access to a private balcony from the reception room. Tenants can hire a garage at an additional cost of £50 pcm.
AGENT: H Wald & Co
01303 212020

Modern living in historic setting

£795 pcm

Beaufort, Sandgate
NEXT to the ancient castle, this modern gated complex provides the best in contemporary living. The luxury groundfloor apartment, in a beachfront development in Sandgate, offers a large open-plan living room with fully-fitted high-spec Italian kitchen, and tiled floors with underfloor heating; two bedrooms; a shower room and en-suite bathroom.
AGENT: Smith-Woolley & Perry
01303 228714

Light and airy apartment

£800 pcm

Metropole Court
THIS superb three-bedroom groundfloor apartment is part of the Metropole complex on the Leas Promenade.
The spacious unfurnished flat is light and airy, with high ceilings and in excellent decorative order. It features a well-equipped kitchen with integrated oven and hob, fridge, freezer, dishwasher and washing machine; large master bedroom with en-suite bathroom and fitted wardrobes; two further double bedrooms; and a family bathroom.
AGENT: Browns
01303 892000

Mid-terrace cottage

£650 pcm

Bartholomew Lane
THIS modernised mid-terrace cottage is set in the idyllic village of Saltwood and offers the best of new and old living. Take a step into the past with this two-bedroom property's red-brick fireplace, but then throw yourself into the 21st century in its modern-style kitchen. The landscaped, part-covered garden is a great feature, perfect for those long summer evenings.
AGENT: H Wald & Co
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Two-seater coupé the new star in BMW's MINI range

Driving

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Load up with the 'Big E'

Mercedes-Benz delivers the goods with its new E-Class estate

SEE PAGE 53 FOR ROAD TEST

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR

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The new Range Rover Evoque is on its way. And it's already been voted 'Most Exciting New Car' by the readers of WhatCar? magazine. To experience the Range Rover Evoque when it arrives, call us or drop in at the showroom.

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RANGE ROVER EVOQUE

RANGE ROVER

Vehicles shown: Range Rover Evoque Coupé Prestige in Fuji White with optional 20 inch Sparkle Silver Alloy Wheels "Style 6", and Range Rover Evoque Prestige in Firenze Red with optional 20 inch Sparkle Silver Alloy Wheels "Style 6".
RANGE OF FUEL ECONOMY FIGURES FOR THE RANGE ROVER EVOQUE RANGE (EXCLUDING ED4 MODELS) IN MPG (L/100KM): URBAN 23.7 (11.9) – 42.2 (6.7) EXTRA URBAN 40.9 (6.9) – 54.3 (5.2) COMBINED 32.5 (8.7) – 49.6 (5.7) CO_2 EMISSIONS 199 – 149 G/KM.

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Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO 2 emissions in Europe.† Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat Panda MyLife 1.2 8v mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions: Urban 44.1 (6.4), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 57.6 (4.9), CO2 emissions 113 g/km.
Price relates to illustrated model of Panda MyLife 1.2 8v in Bossa Nova White paint finish and includes air conditioning, remote central locking, 14" alloy wheels and front electric windows. Terms & Conditions apply. Retail customers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. With Fiat i-Deal you have the option to return the vehicle and not pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed annual mileage (a charge of 6p per mile for exceeding 10,000 miles per annum in this example) and being in good condition. Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. Fiat Financial Services, PO Box 108, Leeds LS27 0WU. February to June 2011 offer. Prices correct at time of printing. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. Northgate Fiat, Westminster Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YY. We work with a number of creditors to provide finance to our customers, including Fiat Financial Services. †Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on Volume-weighted average CO2 emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, year 2010. Ref: 46672.

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Luxurious load-carrying

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MIGHTY Mercedes built its modern-day reputation pretty much on one car – the E-Class.

Never mind the brand's current expansive range, including everything from the A-Class mini-MPV to the Herculean S-Class, plus the high-profile C-Class compact executive model.

Just accept that the profitable success of the E-Class and its predecessors – the company's management-level saloon and estate range and the world's favourite taxi – made all these other models possible.

The Big E's credentials have been simple: rugged build, space, thoughtful and practical design, easy driving and the cachet of that three-pointed star.

Increasingly, the model has also shed workmanlike styling to acquire an understated elegance that finds favour against some of its brasher, not to say rather idiosyncratically styled, rivals.

Brushing aside blips on the reliability radar with early previous-generation models, the current car – launched last year – upholds a tradition of dependability and practicality.

And there is an indefinable feeling of wellbeing behind the wheel; if you've slogged up the corporate rockface but now waft to the office in this, you may feel it was all worth it.

That star on the bonnet adds to the warm glow as you cruise effortlessly and quietly along the motorway in an airy and classy cabin.

The dashboard layout follows the corporate norm: understated and well arranged, although you yearn perhaps for a little more flair and harmony.

Fit and finish is, of course, exemplary – and should be for a car priced from almost £29,000, or £32,000 in the case of the estate model, as tested here.

Unlike its biggest rivals, the Audi A6 and BMW 5-Series, the Merc also concentrates on delivering a fine ride, though the rear-driven chassis is still well balanced for quicker driving on more challenging roads.

Our test estate was a 200bhp E250CDI (from £33,435) wearing the BlueEfficiency label that signifies that this has all the latest eco-friendly bells and whistles that M-B can supply.

Refreshingly, BlueEfficiency is also the default option for the buyer; those who want speed and more power can swim against the tide if they want, but the majority of buyers won't find themselves paying more to save more on running their car and helping the environment – a lesson that some mainstream-sector carmakers could heed.

As ever with M-B, it is hard to detect any difference in refinement with the diesel engine versus petrol. Ours was fitted with a creamy seven-speed auto box and effective paddle shifts on the wheel for rapid manual gear selection.

For a big car, this powertrain also delivers decent performance yet should still average 50-plus mpg. Mercedes reckons it has wrung up to 26 per cent more power from the whole E-Class engine line-up without increasing fuel consumption.

But eking out economy is never the main reason for buying an E-Class estate: you buy because you need a comfortable workhorse, easily seating five and boasting a huge boot (690 litres rear seats up/1950 when flat) that is arguably the best there is for capacity.

And the days are past when your eyes watered at the M-B price list, even before you checked pricing the most basic 'extras' on to your car.

In its most junior SE configuration, the E250CDI comes with classy man-made and durable leather seats, smart alloys, cruise and climate controls, rear parking sensors, electric windows and mirrors, MP3 and Bluetooth connectivity and you will pay a not-unreasonable £990 for a powered sunroof.

Look around and see how many old E-Class estates are still going strong and looking good and you see another powerful reason to buy.

MERCEDES-BENZ E250CDI ESTATE AUTO : £34,940 FACT FILE

THE BIG E: Rugged build, spacious, well designed, practical and easy to drive, Mercedes-Benz has delivered the goods yet again with its new E-Class estate

Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£115/year
Best rival:	BMW 5-Series

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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

VW to set new Blue in motion

ORDER books are open for the latest VW Passat BlueMotion – a family car eco-warrior.

The previous BlueMotion set a record last year covering 1,527.63 miles on a tank of fuel, averaging 89.83mpg, but its successor in the all-new Passat range promises even more efficiency. It's here in July, priced from £19,875 (saloon) and £21,180 (estate).

BMW talks up MINI Coupé

MINI is expanding its line-up with a new two-seat Coupé model due in October.

BMW says it "indulges the keen driver with a level of agility unmatched in the small-car segment, along with a unique body and interior concept and the brand's customary commitment to premium levels of quality". Prices are to be confirmed.

Merc M-Class to hit heights

MIGHTY Mercedes-Benz says its third-generation M-Class luxury off-roader/SUV will set new levels for economy and emissions in its class when it arrives next year.

Range-wide fuel consumption is 25 per cent better than before, with the ML 250 BlueTEC 4MATIC entry model averaging 47mpg and emitting 158g CO_2/km.

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Representative example			
Mercedes-Benz E 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY Estate SE			
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Customer deposit	£5,606.46	Total amount payable by customer++	£34,995.46
Retailer Deposit Contribution	£500.00	Acceptance fee	£180.00
Total Deposit	£6,106.46	Purchase activation fee	£95.00
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www.lookers.mercedes-benz.co.uk

Official government fuel consumption figures in mpg (litres per 100km) for the E-Class Estate range: urban 15.0(18.8)-44.1(6.4), extra urban 30.4(9.3)-61.4(4.6), combined 22.1(12.8)-53.3(5.3). CO2 emissions: 299-139 g/km.

Image model featured is a Mercedes-Benz E 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY SE Estate at £31,815 on the road including complimentary metallic paint (on the road price includes VAT, delivery, 12 months' Road Fund Licence, number plates, first registration fee and fuel). Customer must choose either the Exterior Styling Package offer, the navigation system offer, or the retailer finance deposit contribution offer. Upgrade offer is subject to availability. *Based on a Mercedes-Benz Agility agreement. †Payable if you exercise the option to purchase the car. ††Includes optional purchase payment, purchase activation fee and retailer deposit contribution. Example based on 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges may apply. These offers are available on E-Class Estate models ordered and credit approved between 1 April and 30 June and registered by 30 September 2011, excluding AMG and special request engines. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. We reserve the right not to allow this subsidised rate to be used in conjunction with any other offer from the retailer. Credit provided subject to status by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Limited, MK7 8ND. ^^Exterior Styling Package available on SE and Avantgarde models. ¥Customer can choose a £715 contribution towards Navigation 50 or a £735 contribution towards COMAND. ** Featured rates are not offer rates and are available all year round at your local Mercedes-Benz official workshop. Based on an E-Class manual. Standard service price only. Additional mandatory service items may be required dependent on the age and mileage of the vehicle. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Chevy in Cruze control

IT WAS the motor trade's worst-kept secret – Chevrolet is to follow up on its stylish and affordable Cruze saloon by launching a hatchback version.

Probably held back to avoid clashing with the latest Astra hatch from sister brand Vauxhall, both cars will now do battle in the tough family hatchback market, where the classy-looking Cruze will have an edge on price, from an affordable £13,995, when it arrives in July.

It will also benefit from the prestige of the Cruze saloon's racing success: it won the 2010 British Touring Car Drivers' championship and both drivers' and manufacturers' titles in the World Touring Car series.

Chevrolet's UK MD, Mark Terry, said: "The hatchback version of the Cruze is a massively important new car for us as it not only appeals on a retail level but also increases Chevrolet's appeal to the fleet market.

"Alongside the Orlando (MPV) and the new Captiva (SUV), and with a new Aveo (supermini) just round the corner, we have a truly holistic model range that will appeal to fleet managers, user-choosers and retail customers alike."

Backed by a five-year warranty, the hatchback is offered in three trim levels, and with a choice of two petrol or one diesel engine. Further engine variants will follow, such as a smaller-capacity diesel.

All have electronic stability control as standard, along with safety features comparable to the five-star Euro NCAP-rated Cruze saloon.

The entry-level LS model comes with air-con, remote locking, electric front windows, follow-me-home headlights, electrically-adjustable heated door mirrors and a quality radio/CD player with auxiliary input.

Baby Land Rover delivery date Evoques excitement

LAND Rover dealerships across Kent have revealed that the eagerly-awaited 'baby Range Rover', the Evoque, will be priced from £27,955.

Available in both five-door, pictured, and three-door coupé forms, the range opens with the eD4 'Pure' five-door with six-speed manual gearbox and front-wheel drive – four-wheel versions start at £28,950 – while the Si4 'Dynamic' Coupé flagship with six-speed auto gearbox and Lux pack weighs in at £44,320.

Mark Nicholas, dealer principal for Barretts Land Rover in Canterbury and Ashford, said: "The Evoque is destined to become a design classic – the equivalent of a timeless little black dress or tailored suit that exudes quality and confidence but doesn't date.

"Owners will have the ability to tailor the look of their Evoque using one of three alternative design themes [called Pure, Prestige and Dynamic] as a starting point and then personalising everything from wheels to interiors."

Greg Wilcox, his counterpart at Harwoods Land Rover in Edenbridge and Tonbridge, added: "With a head-turning profile, a range of exterior colours, three contrasting roof treatments, seven alloy wheel designs and 16 contrasting interiors choices, as well as additional Tech and Lux packs, it's not surprising that the Evoque has already won the Car Design News 'Car Design of the Year' award.

"It will be one of the hottest designs on the road when it arrives in September."

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6) – 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) – 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) – 80.7 (3.5). CO2 emissions: 324 – 94g/km.

† 5 years interest free credit available on selected models = maximum finance balance £15,000. Finance supplied by Alpha Financial Services, Europa House, Bartley Way, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UF. †Finance subject to status, over 18's only, a guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Prices shown are available on selected WJ King stock vehicles only whilst stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers apply to selected vehicles ordered between 1st June 2011 and 30th June 2011 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only) All other sales categories are excluded. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. A £99 inc. VAT admin fee (security checks and fuel) will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.

RAY MORRIS
Automatic Cars Ltd

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Tel. 0208 303 4030

21 Watling Street
Bexleyheath
Kent
DA6 7QJ
Tel. 01322 524 680

NEARLY NEW 2011/10 60 59 REG CARS

2011(11) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 650 miles, £21,995
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles, £19,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles, £15,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles, £15,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 900 miles, £14,995
2010(60) MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1700 miles, £14,995
2011(11) VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 350 miles, £14,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1500 miles, £13,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles, £13,995
2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles, £11,995
2010(60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 3000 miles, £11,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 750 miles, £11,995
2010(60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, INFERNO RED, 2000 miles, £11,995
2011(60) NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 3000 miles, £11,495
2011(11) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 400 miles, £10,995
2011(60) VAUXHALL AGILA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 650 miles, £10,995
2010(60) FORD FUSION TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 3000 miles, £10,995
2010(10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles, £9,995
2010(10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles, £9,995
2010(60) RENAULT MODUS GRAND DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles, £9,995
2010(10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles, £9,495
2010(10) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles, £7,995
2010(10) KIA PICANTO STRIKE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles, £7,995
2011(11) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 3000 miles, £7,995

CONVERTIBLES CABRIOLETS COUPES

2009(59) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles, £19,995
2010(10) PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles, £13,995
2009(59) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE COUPE AUTO, RUBY RED, 8000 miles, £11,995
2008(08) NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 14000 miles, £9,495
2008(08) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles, £8,995
2007(07) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles, £8,995
2006(56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles, £8,995
2006(06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles, £7,995

NEW FIESTA

2011(11) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, MIDNIGHT SKY, 500 miles, £12,995
2010(60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles, £11,995
2009(58) FORD FIESTA STYLE PLUS 3DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 3000 miles, £8,995

FOCUS HATCH & SALOON

2008(08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 3000 miles, £8,995
2008(58) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles, £8,495
2008(08) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEA GREY, 16000 miles, £7,995
2008(08) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, VISION BLUE, 8000 miles, £7,995
2008(57) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEA GREY, 7000 miles, £7,495
2005(55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles, £5,995
2005(54) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 29000 miles, £4,995

FOCUS ESTATES

2008(08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC ESTATE AUTO, MOONDUST SILVER, 4000 miles, £8,995

RENAULT SCENIC

2009(59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles, £14,995
2007(07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles, £8,995
2007(07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles, £6,995
2005(05) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles, £5,495

RENAULT

2009(59) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE COUPE AUTO, RUBY RED, 8000 miles, £11,995
2010(59) RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION VVT MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles, £11,995
2010(60) RENAULT MODUS GRAND DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles, £9,995
2010(10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles, £9,995
2010(10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, OTTOMON BLUE, 1000 miles, £9,995
2006(56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles, £8,995
2006(06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles, £7,995
2008(58) RENAULT KANGOO AUTHENTIQUE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 300 miles, £7,995
2008(08) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 7STR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles, £7,995
2008(58) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 1500 miles, £7,495
2008(08) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles, £6,995
2008(57) RENAULT MODUS DYNAMIQUE S VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles, £6,495
2006(06) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT MPV AUTO, RED, 26000 miles, £5,495
2001(Y) RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION+ 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 30000 miles, £3,695

CHEVROLET

2009(09) CHEVROLET AVEO LT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles, £6,995
2009(09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles, £6,995
2009(58) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles, £5,995
2008(58) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 7000 miles, £5,995
2008(08) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles, £5,495
2008(08) CHEVROLET KALOS SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, SPORTS BLUE, 18000 miles, £5,495
2008(08) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles, £4,995
2006(56) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles, £4,995
2008(57) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 24000 miles, £4,495

HYUNDAI

2011(11) HYUNDAI I20 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 100 miles, £10,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI COUPE SIII COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 4000 miles, £9,995
2010(10) HYUNDAI I30 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ATLANTIC BLUE, 6000 miles, £8,995
2010(10) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 750 miles, £7,995
2009(59) HYUNDAI I10 COMFORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles, £6,995
2008(58) HYUNDAI GETZ GSI 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, WINE RED, 13000 miles, £6,495
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles, £6,495
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, WINE RED, 7000 miles, £6,495
2008(08) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI MPV AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles, £6,495
2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 9000 miles, £5,995
2007(57) HYUNDAI MATRIX GSI SALOON AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles, £5,995
2008(08) HYUNDAI AMICA CDX 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 24000 miles, £5,495

KIA

2010(10) KIA PICANTO STRIKE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles, £7,995
2008(08) KIA RIO GS 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles, £6,495

DAIHATSU

2008(08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles, £6,995
2008(08) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles, £6,995
2007(57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles, £6,495
2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles, £5,995
2007(07) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles, £5,995

BMW

2009(59) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, BRONZE, 4000 miles, £19,995
2003(A) BMW 3 SERIES 316TI SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 50000 miles, £4,995

FIAT

2010(10) FIAT 500 BY DIESEL DUALOGIC 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 7000 miles, £10,995
2010(10) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles, £9,495

FUSION

2010(10) FORD FUSION ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles, £9,995
2008(08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 13000 miles, £7,995
2008(08) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, SEA GREY, 3000 miles, £7,995
2009(09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles, £7,495
2008(08) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, OCEAN BLUE, 20000 miles, £5,995

CITROEN

2009(59) CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 350 miles, £8,995
2008(58) CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles, £7,995
2008(57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 2000 miles, £6,495

CORSA

2010(60) VAUXHALL CORSA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 750 miles, £11,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles, £7,995
2007(57) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles, £6,495
2005(05) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 25000 miles, £4,995
2006(06) VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 12V TWINPORT MTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 27000 miles, £4,995

MAZDA

2008(58) MAZDA 3 3 TAKARA 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 5000 miles, £9,995
2008(08) MAZDA 3 3 TS2 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles, £8,995
2007(57) MAZDA 2 2 CAPELLA 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles, £6,495
2007(56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles, £5,495
2006(56) MAZDA 2 2 S 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 22000 miles, £4,995

SUZUKI

2009(59) SUZUKI GRAND VITARA SZ5 ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLUE, 5000 miles, £15,995
2009(59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles, £8,995
2007(57) SUZUKI SX4 GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles, £7,495
2009(59) SUZUKI ALTO SZ4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles, £6,995

TOYOTA

2006(56) TOYOTA RAV-4 XT4 VVT-I ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 35000 miles, £12,995
2010(10) TOYOTA AYGO BLUE VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, CARIBBEAN BLUE, 6000 miles, £7,995
2005(05) TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT VVT-I 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles, £5,995
2007(57) TOYOTA AYGO BLACK VVT-I MM 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles, £5,995
2003(03) TOYOTA YARIS CDX VVT-I 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 46000 miles, £4,995
2003(03) TOYOTA YARIS CDX HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 71000 miles, £3,995

ASTRA ESTATES

2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles, £9,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 140 ESTATE AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles, £7,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles, £6,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 140 ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, £6,995
2006(56) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V ESTATE AUTO, PANACOTTA, 19000 miles, £5,995

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NISSAN

2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, ...£17,995
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 7000 miles,.... £16,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 7000 miles, ...£15,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FADED DENIM, 19000 miles,.... £15,995
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles, ... £15,495
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles, ...£14,995
2007(57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles, ...£13,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI VISIA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 17000 miles, ...£12,995
2007(57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 18000 miles, ...£12,995
2010(60) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, INFERNO RED, 2000 miles, ...£11,995
2010(60) NISSAN CUBE KAIZEN 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 3000 miles, ...£11,995
2011(60) NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 3000 miles, ...£11,495
2010(10) NISSAN MICRA N-TEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE , 9000 miles, ...£9,995
2010(59) NISSAN NOTE N-TEC MPV AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 5000 miles, ...£9,995
2008(08) NISSAN MICRA TEKNA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 14000 miles, ...£9,495
2008(08) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles,....£8,995
2009(59) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles, ... £8,995
2009(09) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles, ...£8,495
2009(58) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 7000 miles, ...£7,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, EMOTION RED, 6000 miles, ...£7,495
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles, ...£6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 18000 miles, ...£6,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 11000 miles, ...£6,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles, ...£6,995
2008(58) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles,.... £6,995
2007(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles, ...£6,995
2008(57) NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles, ...£6,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE ACENTA MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles, ...£6,495
2006(56) NISSAN NOTE SE MPV AUTO, ORANGE, 21000 miles, ...£5,995
2006(56) NISSAN MICRA INITIA 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles, ... £5,995
2008(08) NISSAN NOTE TEKNA MPV AUTO, BLACK, 24000 miles, ... £5,995
2005(9) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles, ... £4,995
2005(05) NISSAN MICRA S 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 5000 miles, ...£4,995
2004(54) NISSAN ALMERA TINO S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles,.... £4,995
2005(05) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 15000 miles, ...£4,995
2005(05) NISSAN ALMERA SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, MERLOT RED, 1800 miles, ...£4,995
2005(54) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFE LATTE, 9000 miles, ...£4,995
2005(55) NISSAN ALMERA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 39000 miles, ...£4,995
2005(05) NISSAN ALMERA S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 11000 miles,.... £4,995
2004(54) NISSAN MICRA SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 32000 miles, ... £4,695

ASTRA HATCHBACKS

2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANACOTTA, 15000 miles, ...£9,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles,.... £9,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 3DR HATCH AUTO, TECHNICAL GREY, 5000 miles, ... £9,495
2010(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 12000 miles, ...£9,495
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 2000 miles.... £8,995
2009(09) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING, 14000 miles, ...£8,995
2008(58) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles, ...£8,495
2009(59) VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI 1.4 16V 3DR, GREY, 18000 miles,.... £8,495
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 20000 miles, ...£6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, PANNACOTTA, 14000 miles,.... £6,495
2008(08) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles, ...£6,495
2007(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles, ...£5,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL ASTRA LIFE AC 16V E4 5DR HATCH AUTO, TURQUOISE, 16000 miles, ...£5,995

NEW MODEL ASTRA

2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 900 miles, ...£14,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles, ... £13,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1500 miles, ... £13,995
2010(10) VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles, ...£10,995

ZAFIRA MERIVA & AGILA

2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, SILVER LIGHTNING , 9000 miles, ...£9,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 17000 miles,.... £8,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles, ...£8,995
2010(59) VAUXHALL MERIVA CLUB 16V MPV AUTO, STEEL BLUE, 5000 miles,.... £8,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, STEEL BLUE, 11000 miles, ...£8,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CLUB 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 12000 miles, ...£8,995
2009(59) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 3000 miles, ...£8,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles, ...£7,995
2008(57) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles, ...£6,995
2008(08) VAUXHALL MERIVA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles, ...£6,995
2005(05) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles, ...£5,495

DIESEL AUTOMATICS

2010(60) VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles, ...£15,995
2010(60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TURBO MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles, ...£15,995
2009(59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE DCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles, ...£14,995
2009(59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles, ...£13,995
2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, 13000 miles, ...£12,995
2006(06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS GT TDI DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, GREY, 47000 miles, ... £9,99

PEUGEOT

2010(10) PEUGEOT 207 CC SPORT CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles,.... £13,995
2010(10) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 7000 miles,.... £10,995
2010(10) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, IRON GREY, 2000 miles, ...£9,995
2009(09) PEUGEOT 308 S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles,.... £8,995
2008(08) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles, ...£8,995
2007(07) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles, ...£8,995
2008(08) PEUGEOT 207 SE PREMIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, CHAMPAGNE, 12000 miles,.... £8,995
2007(57) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, RED, 23000 miles,....£7,495
2007(57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles,.... £6,995
2008(08) PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 2-TRONIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 8000 miles, ...£5,995

MITSUBISHI

2007(57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles, ...£6,995

HONDA

2008(57) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles, ...£17,995
2008(57) HONDA CR-V ES AUTO 5DR AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 17000 miles, ... £17,995
2007(07) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, GREY, 24000 miles, ...£16,995
2006(06) HONDA CR-V I-VTEC SE ESTATE AUTO 4x4, BLACK, 26000 miles, ...£11,995
2009(09) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles, ...£9,995
2008(58) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles, ...£9,495
2008(08) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles, ... £8,995
2005(55) HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 48000 miles, ...£5,995

MERCEDES

2008(58) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A170 AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles, £13,995
2009(59) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles, ...£13,995
2009(09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles, ...£12,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180K AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles, ...£12,995
2008(08) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 ELEGANCE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 13000 miles, ...£11,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles, £9,995
2007(57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 AVANTGARDE SE 3DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 11000 miles, ...£9,995

VOLKSWAGEN

2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH, GREY, 7000 miles, ...£11,995 + VAT
2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FSI 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, DIAMOND BLACK, 11000 miles, ... £11,995
2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles, ...£10,995
2006(06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS GT TDI DSG 5DR TD HATCH AUTO, GREY, 47000 miles, ...£9,995
2009(59) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 780 miles,....£9,995
2009(09) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles, ... £8,995
2008(58) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH 3DR AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles, ...£8,995
2009(09) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 10000 miles, ...£8,995
2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 10000 miles, ...£7,995
2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 10000 miles, ...£7,995
2008(08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO MATCH (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 13000 miles, ...£7,995
2005(05) VOLKSWAGEN LUPO E 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles, ...£5,495

MORRIS'S MANUAL CARS

2009(F) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 3DR HATCH, WHITE, 3000 miles, ...£9,995
2006(06) JAGUAR X-TYPE S D TD SALOON, RED, 72000 miles, ...£6,995
2005(05) TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO T2 VVT-I MPV, SILVER STEEL, 9000 miles, ...£6,495
2006(56) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V TWINPORT 3DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 2000 miles, ...£5,495
2005(55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 35000 miles, ...£4,995
2005(05) NISSAN ALMERA TINO SE 5DR HATCH, RED, 12000 miles, ...£4,495
2007(07) KIA PICANTO LS 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 17000 miles, ...£4,495

SKODA

2008(58) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles, ...£7,995
2008(08) SKODA ROOMSTER 2 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 4000 miles, ...£7,495

QASHQAI

2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 6000 miles, ...£19,995
2010(59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 6000 miles,.... £19,495
2010(10) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles, ...£17,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH, BLACK, 9000 miles, ...£15,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FADED DENIM, 19000 miles, ...£15,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, FIRED IRON, 17000 miles, ...£15,995
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles, ...£15,995
2009(09) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, FIRED IRON, 7000 miles, ...£15,995
2008(58) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAFFE LATTE, 12000 miles, ...£15,495
2008(08) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, CAYMAN BLUE, 10000 miles, ...£14,995
2007(57) NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 18000 miles, ...£12,995

MINI

2010(60) MINI COOPER MINI COOPER 3DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1700 miles,.... £14,995
2006(06) MINI COOPER S MINI COOPER S 3DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 35000 miles, ...£9,495

LAND ROVER

2009(59) LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4 S TURBO ESTATE AUTO 4x4, GREY, 6000 miles, £19,995

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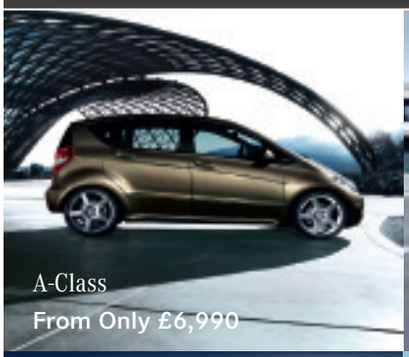
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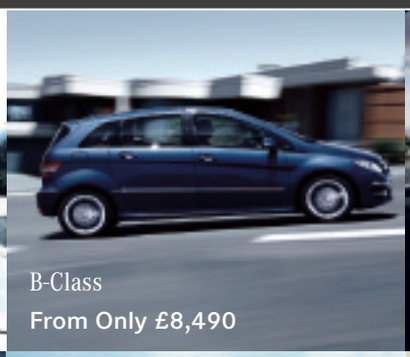
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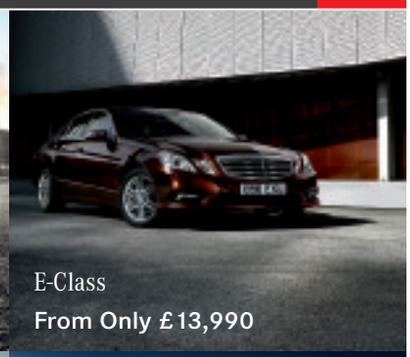
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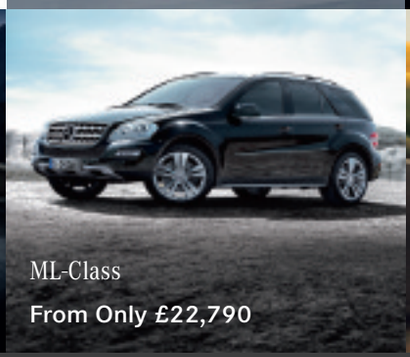
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11 REG

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11 REG

Astra Excite 5dr

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Motability

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1). Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 80.7 (3.5). CO2 emissions: 324 - 94g/km. Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Finance subject to status. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first car owner, 100,000 mile limit, annual check required. The warranty excludes wear & tear and serviceable items and the vehicle must be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule to continue the lifetime warranty. Terms and conditions apply. Offer available to all Vauxhall passenger cars (this offer does not apply to car derived vans) from 1st August 2010. For more information contact your local Vauxhall Retailer or visit www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty. ^Swappage allowance requires a trade in vehicle of over 7 years of age. You must have owned the vehicle for at least 3 months and it must be taxed and insured. For full details, please ask. Personal contact hire packages available to individuals for orders received between 29.04.11 and 30.06.11. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package over 48 months and 6,000 miles per year (max). Payable as an advance rental/deposit, then 47 equal monthly rentals. Rentals and excess charges are based on the current VAT rate. Excess mileage charges will apply. Excess charges also apply if the car is not serviced and maintained in accordance with manufacturer guidelines and returned to Vauxhall Leasing in a condition commensurate with the BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age and mileage. Package includes R.F.L. and Vauxhall Assistance. Offer subject to availability and status. UK supplied vehicles only. For full specification, details, terms and conditions contact your local retailer. Guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Applicants must be 18 or over.

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10 Plate Ford **MONDEO** Edge 1.8 125ps Diesel 5dr

OPTION ONE - NIL DEPOSIT

	Fiesta	Focus	Mondeo
Cash Price	£9,999	£8,999	£9,495
Deposit	Nil	Nil	Nil
Amount of Credit	£9,999	£8,999	£9,495
Purchase Fee (inc in payments below)	£10	£10	£10
Credit Facility Fee (inc in payments below)	£310	£310	£310
Total Amount Payable	£13,369.80	£11,955	£12,593.40
Initial Payment	£220.33	£196.75	£207.39
58 Monthly Payments	£220.33	£196.75	£207.39
Final Payment	£370.33	£346.75	£357.39
Duration of Agreement	60 Months	60 Months	60 Months
Fixed Rate	10.86%	10.44%	10.43%
Representative APR	12.6%	12.3%	12.2%

OPTION TWO - LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT

	Fiesta	Focus	Mondeo
Cash Price	£9,999	£8,999	£9,495
Deposit	£3,499	£3,149	£3,323
Amount of Credit	£6,500	£5,850	£6,172
Documentation Fee	£175	£175	£175
Option Fee	£149	£149	£149
Total Amount Payable	£11,581.04	£10,394.19	£10,965.11
Initial Payment	£293.23	£298.46	£300.09
34 Monthly Payments	£118.23	£123.46	£125.09
Optional Final Payment	£3,769	£2,749	£3,089
Duration of Agreement	36 Months	36 Months	36 Months
Representative APR	10.6%	11.4%	11.2%

OPTION THREE - DRIVE AWAY TODAY

	Fiesta	Focus	Mondeo
Cash Price	£9,999	£8,999	£9,495
Deposit	£4,665.25	£5,216.50	£5,270.50
Amount of Credit	£5,333.75	£3,782.50	£4,224.50
Finance Facility Fee (inc in payments below)	£125	£125	£125
Purchase Fee (inc in payments below)	£95	£95	£95
Total Amount to Pay to Drive Away	£5,835.67	£6,082.87	£6,223.50
Total Amount Payable	£11,264.42	£9,960.37	£10,543
Initial Payment	£1,170.42	£866.37	£953
Monthly Payments	None - GMFV Due in 25 Months	None - GMFV Due in 25 Months	None - GMFV Due in 25 Months
Optional Final Payment (GMFV)	£5,333.75	£3,782.50	£4,224.50
Duration of Agreement	25 Months	25 Months	25 Months
Fixed Rate	9.8%	9.8%	9.8%
Representative APR	13.6%	14.7%	14.3%

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Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Metallic paint an optional extra. Models shown for illustration purposes only. All vehicles sold must be registered by 30th April 2011. The offical fuel consumption figures in L/100 (MPG) for range of vehicles shown Urban 6.3 (44.8) - 13.8 (20.5), Extra Urban 4.4 (64.2) -7.5 (37.7) and combined 5.1 (55.4) - 9.8 (28.8). The offical CO2 emissions for the advertised cars are 119 - 235g/km. Metallic optional extra.

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ALFA ROMEO

159, 3.2 V6 JTS Q4 LUSSO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player climate control electric windows body coloured bumpers height adj drivers seat, black, 30376 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, 2.4 JTDM LUSSO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 28347 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JTDM 16v LUSSO, 2008, abs brakes air con alloys cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, alfa red, 70000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRERA, 2.4 JTDM SV, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows remote audio controls, silver, 28347 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRERA, 2.4 JTDM SV, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote remote audio controls, silver, 28347 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

AUDI

A3, SE FSI, 2006, air conditioning alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows full service history metallic paint multiple airbags remote central locking, mauve met. 24500 miles, £9500, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

A3, sport tdi, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd sports seats tinted glass trip computer remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, atral silver, 20490 miles, £11000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

A4, S LINE, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sports seats tinted glass trip computer twin airbags xenon headlamps remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, silver, 21500 miles, £22000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A4, FSI S Line Multitronic, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, blue, 47365 miles, £13500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A5, Coupe 3.0 Tdi Quattro Sport, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, silver, 22812 miles, £25000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A5, Coupe 3.0 Tdi Quattro Sport, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, silver, 22812 miles, £25000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A6, 1.9 TDi 130 SE, 2005, blue, 122000 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A6, 2.7T QUATTRO SPORT, 2002, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer roof bars adjustable steering column front armrest body coloured bumpers lumbar support height adj drivers seat, blue, 78000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A6, 2.7 TDi S-LINE MULTITRONIC, 2006, quartz, 62000 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

Q7, TDI QUATTRO 240 S-LINE, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag isofix child seat points auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers lumbar support 3x3 point heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, grey, 14033 miles, £35000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

Q7, 3.0 Tdi Se Tiptronic, 2008, abs brakes automatic transmission cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 16588 miles, £27000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, 2.0T FSI, 2006, silver, 63000 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, 1.8 T Quattro, 2001, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels electric windows front fog lights half leather trim heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, silver, 25000 miles, £9500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

CAPTIVA, 2.0 VCDi LTX 7 SEATS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, tbc, 64000 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CAPTIVA, 2.0 VCDi LTX 7 SEATS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, tbc, 64000 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CAPTIVA, 2.0 VCDi LTX 7 SEATS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, tbc, 64000 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KALOS, SE (AC), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, silver, 10019 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KALOS, SE (AC), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, silver, 10019 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering twin airbags adjustable steering column, pearl black, 15782 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE, 2008, abs brakes electric windows immobiliser power steering, silver, 13090 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MATIZ, S, 2007, alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering twin airbags body coloured bumpers, poly silver, 36703 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6 SX, 2006, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking, blue, 30509 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6 SX, 2006, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking, blue, 30509 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)
FIAT

500, POP, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning electric windows immobiliser power steering, minimal grey, 30780 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, MULITJET POP, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel electric windows power steering, silver, 5532 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 LOUNGE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 2758 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, DYNAMIC ECO, 2010, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel electric windows power steering, black, 3000 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)
Bravo, 1.4, 2008, black, 55 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CROMA, 1.9 MULTIJET ELEGANZA, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, grey, 48073 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CROMA, 1.9 MULTIJET ELEGANZA, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, grey, 48073 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Mulitjet, 2010, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows, beige, 5736 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

Doblo, 1.3 MULTJET FAMILY - 7 SEATER, 2008, abs brakes cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, rumba red, 25991 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.3 Multijet Active, 2007, abs brakes electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column front armrest rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, mtallic bolero red, 21000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIORINO, 60 plate1.3 Dsl base Call Waheeda 07825 670994, 2010, cd player, white, 10 miles, £7500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIORINO, 1.3 16v MULTIJET**Call Waheeda 07825670994**, 2010, cd player diesel, white, 10 miles, £7500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 1000 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, abs brakes alloys electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering split adjustable steering column body 3x3 point height adj drivers seat, red, 27000 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IDEA, 1.4, 2008, black, 55 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IDEA, 1.4, 2008, red, 55 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IDEA, 1.4, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint, blue, 55 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, Multijet Eleganza, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloys cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, blue, 15000 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

Multipla, 2.0, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser, blue, 55 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, Multijet Dynamic Plus, 2010, abs brakes cd central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, blue, 10 miles, £14500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.1 ACTIVE, 2008, cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover twin airbags, yellow, 7161 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.1 Active Eco, 2010, abs brakes central locking electric windows twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch isofix child seat points adjustable steering column, white, 50 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 Active, 2003, cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering metallic crystal green, 52008 miles, £2600, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows half leather trim immobiliser, black, 55 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

QUBO, Multijet Dynamic, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, blue, 10 miles, £11500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

QUBO, Multijet Dynamic, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, grey, 4331 miles, £10500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SCUDO, Combi 9 Seat LWB A/C METALLIC REAR PARK, 2010, air conditioning cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering remote central locking, met grey, 100 miles, £15400, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SCUDO, 1.6 COMFORT 90 L1Call Waheeda 07825670994, 2010, abs brakes cd player diesel immobiliser power steering side load door remote central locking, blue, 18000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY, 2.7TD V6 SE, 2006, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control cruise control diesel electric windows immobiliser multi cd player multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation tinted glass traction control trip computer radjustable steering column lumbar support height adj drivers seat, silver, 48721 miles, £21495, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DISCOVERY, 2.7 TDV6 XS, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player cruise control front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control remote central locking remote audio controls body coloured bumpers, black, 27000 miles, £25000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 2008, alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats metallic paint multi cd player leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation split folding rear seats trip computer xenon headlamps remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls electric sunroof adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear armrest rear headrests heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, blue, 21440 miles, £20000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels electric windows power steering, silver, 52300 miles, £4500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)
Range Rover, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, orange, 32000 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER, 2002, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic transmission central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 32561 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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11 11 Plate Fiat Punto Evo 1.4 Dynamic

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Mileage: 364
£9,450

Class C180 Coupe Auto

Petrol, 3 Dr Coupe, Aluminium/silver, Black Leather, Alloys, Colour Coded Bumpers/Mirrors, Front Fog Lamps, Tinted Glass, Air Con, Remote CL, CC, Driver Airbag, Passenger Airbag, Elec Mirrors/Windows, PAS, Radio CD, Service History, Leather upholstery, Sports Model, 63,000 miles
£5,495

06 06 Vauxhall Astra Estate 1.6 Club 16v
Manual, Petrol, 5 Dr Estate, Met Breeze Blue, Black Cloth, Alloys, Colour Coded Bumpers, Colour Coded Mirrors, Rear Wash Wipe, Tinted Glass, Air Con, Immobiliser, Remote CL, Full Airbags, EM, EW, Park Distance Control, PAS, Radio CD, Service History, 1 Owner, 47,250 miles
£4,995

04 04 Citroen Xsara Picasso Exclusive 1.6 HDi
Alloy Wheels, Colour Coded Bumpers, Colour Coded Mirrors, Front Fog Lamps, Rear Wash Wipe, Tinted Glass, ABS, Air Con, Electric Windows, 1 owner from new, 39,700 miles
£4,975

07 07 Chevolet Matiz SE 995cc
5door hatchback, two owners from new, grey cloth interior, abs, remote central locking, electric windows, pas, CD, full service history, low tax/insurance, 23,506 miles
£3,250

01 Y Ford Galaxy 2.3 Ghia 16v 7 Seat MPV
Manual, Petrol, 5 Door, Blue Cloth Interior, T/Glass, P/Glass, ABS, C/Locking, C/Control, CR/Control, E/Mirrors, E/Windows, Park Dist Cont, CD Multiplayer, SH, 1 owner from new 120,554 miles
£2,595

96 P 900 Saab SE Turbo Convertible
White with black power hood, leather interior, two owners, alloy wheels, remote central locking, alarm, service history, only 50,128 miles
£2,450

01 Y Peugeot 607 SE Auto
Two Owners, leather interior, lumber support, alloy wheels, pas, cruise control, full service history, abs, heated seats, park distance control, electric rear sunblind, 77,200 miles
£1,995

02 52 Nissan Micra 1.0 Tempest
Manual, Petrol, 3 Dr Hatchback, Blue, Grey Cloth Interior, Colour Coded Bumpers, Colour Coded Mirrors, Rear Wash Wipe, Central Locking, Remote, Power Assisted Steering, Sunroof, 2 Owners, Ideal First Car, 83,869 miles
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98 R Alfa Romeo 145
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*Price shown is for GEN-2 ecoLogic 1.6 GLS MT; manufacturer's list price £10,195 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. Model shown/specificed is GEN-2 ecoLogic GSX MT; manufacturer's list price £11,195 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. GEN-2 ecoLogic models with automatic transmission are registered by Proton prior to conversion. ^Free leather offer ends 30th June 2011 and is available on GEN-2 GSX models only. Available at participating dealers only and excludes Motability and Fleet sales. ±Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply. †LPG prices taken from www.petrolprices.com - national LPG average on the 25th March 2011.

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SAAB 9-5 2.2 TiD Vector, 5 Doors, Automatic, Estate, Diesel, 2004 04 Reg , 75,166 miles, Metallic SILVER, 3 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Elec windows, Anti theft system, Elec mirrors, Air con, Radio/Cassette, Alarm, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Solid Paint, Partial leather seat trim, Central locking, Computer, Full Service History, Metallic paintwork, Insurance Group: 13, ... **£6,195**

2005 05 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 91,350 miles, Metallic silver, 2 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Roof rails, Radio/Cassette, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Elec door mirrors/windows, PAS, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Leather seat trim, Insurance Group: 17 ..... **£5,995**

SAAB 9-5 2.0T Vector, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2003 03 Reg , 93,137 miles, Metallic Grey, 4 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Passenger airbag, Rear armrest, Radio/Cassette, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Sports seats, Traction control, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Steering wheel rake adjustment, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer. Insurance Group: 13E **£3,495**

OTHER MAKES

VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 SE, 3 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2001 Y Reg, 48,812 miles, Black, 4 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Electric sunroof, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Radio/Cassette, Rear headrests, Service indicator, Space saver spare wheel, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Height adjustable drivers seat, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear wiper, Steering wheel rake adjustment. Insurance Group: 7 ..... **£2,595**

2000 W Reg PEUGEOT 306 1.6 Meridian, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 53,164 miles, Metallic RED, 2 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Radio/Cassette, Radio/CD, Sports seats, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Elec mirrors/windows, PAS, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Insurance Group: 5E **£1,750**

NISSAN Primera 2.0 16v SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2000 X Reg , 156,076 miles, Metallic BLUE, 5 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Radio/Cassette, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Elec door mirrors/windows, Heated door mirrors, PAS, Trip computer, Climate Control, Metallic paintwork, Remote locking, Audio remote control. Insurance Group: 13E **£1,395**

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Used Cars

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  Beige Metallic Manual Petrol with black cloth interior 30,340 miles £5,495
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* **08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 16V (85 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback**
  Finished in Black Metallic Two Tone with a Black Cloth interior, 25,100 miles. £7,295
* **08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback**
  Brilliant Siliver Metallic Manual Petrol with a black cloth interior 14,900 miles. £7,495
* **10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 (70 BHP) SE 5-Dr Hatchback**
  Finished in White Mica Two Tone with a Black Cloth interior, 14,150 miles. £9,295
* **07 Plate. Skoda Superb 2.0 TDi PD 140 Elegance 4-Dr Saloon**
  Blue Storm Metallic Manual Diesel with a black leather interior 37,500 miles £9,995
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  Pearlescent Black Magic Manual Diesel with black leather trim 68,680 miles £8,995
* **10 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDi CR vRS 5-Dr**
  Black Magic Metallic Manual Diesel with multi-colour velour-leather interior 20,500 miles £15,995
* **08 Plate. Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback**
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Other Makes

* **55 Plate. Fiat Panda 1.1 Active 5-Door Hatchback**
  Finished in Cocktail Blue Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 15,512 miles. £4,795
* **06 Plate. Renault Megane 1.6 VVT Privilege Coupe Cabriolet**
  Finished in Black Metallic with a Beige Velour - Leather interior, 23,500 miles. £7,295
* **04 Plate. Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6 HDi Exclusive 5-Dr MPV**
  Cool Mint Metallic Manual Diesel with a Grey cloth interior, 47,712 miles £5,495
* **05 Plate. Citroen C5 1.6 HDi 16v 110 Design 5-Dr**
  Beige Metallic Manual Diesel 47,500 miles £4,995
* **09 Plate. Ford Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr Hatchback**
  Red Manual Diesel with a Black cloth interior 34,449 miles £8,995
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  Finished in Nighthawk Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £5,795
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RULES TO KEEP YOUR CAR IN TOP CONDITION

SEE PAGE 98

Getting on the road to fixed-price servicing

SEE PAGE 104

Main Dealer Servicing

Keep dealers in your mind for car-servicing

AFTER buying a house, buying a car is usually the second biggest investment we make. So how do you protect that investment, apart from keeping it in good condition and insuring it?

By ensuring the service schedule is kept up to date and repairs are carried out promptly and competently.

Not so long ago, the best guarantee was a full main-dealer service history, a record that everything required of the car and the manufacturer's warranty had been carried out.

But this became seen as a restrictive practice by the European Union, which brought in legislation in 2002 making it illegal for car-manufacturers to insist on their cars being

maintained solely by their franchise network to keep the guarantee intact.

It also meant manufacturers had to make vehicle-diagnostics information – crucial with increasingly-sophisticated vehicles – specialist tools and updates available to independent garages and servicing centres.

So why do so many car-buyers continue to use main-dealer franchising when an independent outlet is now allowed to do the work and stamp the service book?

An obvious answer is that many car-buyers, having parted with a lot of hard-earned cash, still believe it is the best way to preserve their investment. And they also think it is the best way to protect its part-exchange or secondhand sales value, since used-car-buyers will usually pay a premium for a full main-dealer service history, particularly on top marques like the XF from Jaguar (main picture).

The counter-argument, of course,

is 'Ah, but you wiped out that perceived premium by paying more for your servicing via a main dealer while you owned the car'.

It is a point, but manufacturers and their main-dealer networks have raised their game considerably since the 2002 legislation. Indeed, with car sales and profits squeezed ever more tightly since the recession, many dealers know they have to fight harder to raise customer traffic elsewhere and they have chosen to battle it largely on servicing, cost-effective service plans, enhanced customer service, competitive pricing on items like tyres – normally the preserve of the quick-fit centres – and the perception that only a main dealer's service technicians can know its cars as well they do.

The other big by-product for the dealer is that happy service customers keep coming back, seeing the latest new car models on the showroom floor – one day soon, they may buy again.

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Quick fix or fast buck?

AS MOTORING costs soar, it's all too easy to try to cut corners at the local 'quick/fast-fit' centre.

These specialist chains have blossomed as drivers try to save money on the biggest motoring 'consumables': exhausts, tyres, batteries, clutches, shock absorbers and routine services, plus the annual MOT.

But main dealers have not been sitting on their hands, reckoning that if car-owners are still using their service bays, then they won't mind considering realistic deals on tyres and exhausts, for instance, to ensure a time-saving one-stop shop purchase.

Using the main dealer also guarantees that only genuine manufacturers' parts are used, bringing the confidence of additional quality and reliability.

And that same guarantee, plus realistic pricing, has encouraged having bodyshop repairs done either by the franchise's own panel-beaters and paintshop or one that gets its seal of approval.

Main dealers have also borrowed from their quick-fit rivals by offering menu pricing; this means that, like dining out, a customer can decide what he wants and knows in advance what it will cost – avoiding any motoring indigestion when the bill is presented.

Some dealers will even let you spread the cost via a finance or servicing scheme covering several years.

Others may also offer a loyalty scheme to keep owners of older models on their books rather than see them defect to the non-franchised sector because those owners believe that the lower value of their car does not warrant the higher perceived cost of main-dealer servicing.

Another trick borrowed from the quick-fit sector is longer working hours at main-dealer service centres; dealers are much more aware that many customers want to drop off their car early on their way to work and then pick it up at the end of the day – a courtesy car may even be offered.

Bookings can often be made centrally, too, so that customers living midway between two franchised dealers within the same group can pick the most convenient service slots available.

FAST-FIT: Vauxhall MasterFit dealers have taken on quick-fit centres at their own game by offering competitive deals on consumables such as tyres

ACCURACY: Mazda's DSR system aims to counteract 'clocking' of a car's mileage

Stop the clocks turning back

ACCORDING to vehicle information experts HPI, one in 17 cars undergoing an MOT have had their mileage altered – or 'clocked'.

Mazda's new Digital Service Record (DSR) system seeks to counter that and provide a valuable, independent and accurate reference through the servicing records of its cars.

The internet-based DSR replaces conventional and potentially vulnerable maintenance booklets, meaning owners benefit from having centralised, secure and transparent records of their cars' service histories.

Car-clocking can be dangerous as it puts not only drivers and passengers at risk, but also other road-users.

A reduced mileage does not give a true impression of the wear and tear of the car, and, if the mileage stated on the odometer can not be verified, car-dealers and drivers can be vulnerable from a legal point of view, particularly on insurance claims.

"Mazda's DSR is first and foremost a quick, efficient and convenient service record system for Mazda's customers, providing easier access to service history and demonstrating regular servicing and maintenance," said Steve Jelliss, aftersales director at Dartford-based Mazda UK.

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Mercedes-Benz of Tonbridge Vale Rise, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1TB

0844 649 3282

www.lookers.mercedes-benz.co.uk

Please note that inbound calls are recorded and may be used for training purposes. † Subject to availability. ** For vehicles registered after January 2004. *Average based on customer service feedback from Service Events held at the above Mercedes-Benz Official Workshops between 1st January and 31st December 2010.

Don't do your trusty car a disservice

NOBODY can argue that driving a modern car is a much more forgiving and comfortable experience that it was just a few years ago.

Even an enthusiast's car like the original 1970s VW Golf GTI feels primitive up against its modern successor

The downside, though, is that much less can be done by the DIY mechanic; keeping the car in reliable, correct and safe condition is now more of a job for the professional and, of course, it costs.

Unfortunately, this means that owners often ignore problems for too long and servicing is stretched beyond the recommended parameters, which also endangers the warranty and the provenance of the vehicle when you come to sell.

So, the golden rules are:

- Maintain the service record to the letter. Get it serviced at the correct mileages or annually and make sure the servicing book is stamped up, although some motor marques are switching to centralised digital records so that a car's servicing record is always available if required.
- Read the warranty document thoroughly to ensure there are no possible pitfalls that could endanger the guarantee.
- Make sure you act on any recalls from the manufacturer for checks or replacements, even if they do not relate specifically to safety – it will help maintain the warranty and future saleability of the car.

MAINTENANCE: Shop around for good quality servicing and (right) Skoda Fabia vRS – the Czech motor marque continues to win customer service awards for its models and the support of an enthusiastic dealer network.

- Don't rely on the MOT as insurance of the car's safety and reliability, even if has just passed with flying colours – problems can arise at any time and you should get them checked as soon as possible.
- Check lights regularly for safety and legality. Get used to 'Lighting up' in the garage or when you are nosed in or backed up to a wall.
- Check tyres – including the spare – monthly, and that includes the correct pressures as listed in the handbook or the sticker often placed on the driver's side-door frame. Though the legal tread depth is 1.6mm, most motoring authorities advise replacement at 2mm, especially in winter when icy and wet conditions can compromise grip.
- Keep oil, windscreen-washer, coolant, power steering, clutch and brake-fluid levels topped up without over-filling, and make those checks on level ground. Don't wait for warning lights to come on – it could be too late to prevent damage or compromise safety. Some cars have an interim set of warning lights, but these can be an unwelcome reminder if you are in the middle of a long journey at the weekend and miles from a decent garage. Don't be caught out.
- Replace wiper blades. There is little point in keeping the washer topped up if the blades are worn or split. But if the windscreen is covered with bugs and grease, don't expect the washer and wipers to do the job for you – use a spray and some elbow grease.
- Shop around for servicing. Even if you are committed to main-dealer servicing, it does not mean you have to go back to the one where you bought the car – some are better than others.

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WARRANTS A LOOK: Make sure you keep the service schedule up to date and, right, Hyundai is one of those car-makers which has raised the stakes on warranties – models like this ix20 mini-MPV come with a five-year/100,000-mile guarantee

How to win the warranty war

NEW cars are covered by a warranty. For years, the standard was three years and/or 60,000 miles, but a recent outbreak of 'warranty wars' between the car-makers has seen both the years and mileages increase.

It's a good reason for car-buyers to shop around, but some of the new deals also reinforce the old adage to check the small print.

This will confirm what the manufacturer will and will not pay for if the car breaks down within the agreed time period or mileage.

And this makes it imperative that the car-owner also sticks to the rules by keeping the car serviced according to the warranty and also taking note of and acting on any recall notices for unforeseen faults and problems.

Some are more lenient about late servicing than others, but a common pitfall is to have the car serviced only by mileage – most makers insist the car is serviced annually if the required miles are not being covered.

You don't have to use a franchised dealer for servicing – this stipulation was thrown out by EU legislation in 2002 – but do check for caveats in any case.

Be aware also that some marques offer the chance to extend the warranty for a reasonable cost or will 'wind back' the warranty clock to start again if you buy an approved used example from one of their dealers – not a bad option.

Vauxhall promises good price on tyres

CUSTOMERS with a Vauxhall can enjoy a like-for-like price match on a selection of tyres through Vauxhall MasterFit retailers.

The Tyre Price Promise covers leading brands – Continental, Pirelli, Dunlop, Michelin and Firestone – within a five-mile radius of the customer's nearest MasterFit outlet.

Vauxhall spokeswoman Belinda Craik said: "Motorists don't always think to take their car back to the franchised retailer when looking for replacement parts such as tyres. However, we are confident that we can now demonstrate to our customers – through the Tyre Price Promise – that we not only provide quality parts as you'd expect with a vehicle manufacturer, but that we do so at an unbeatable price."

Customers can visit local Vauxhall MasterFit Retailer for tyre checks, changes and replacements without an appointment as there is a large range of tyres in stock.

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*Deposit required.

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And because your comfort is important, an air conditioning check and treatment is included as well.

Summer check only £39.99

Carried out by expert Peugeot technicians, it's designed to check that your car is operating and performing as it should. For example, ensuring your tyres are in top condition, with the correct tread depth and pressure, can improve road handling, reduce braking distances and maximise fuel consumption. We'll provide you with a full report on the condition of your vehicle and if we do identify any problems, we'll let you know up front and outline the cost of any repairs – but you're under no obligation to have them done.

* Terms and conditions apply. Offer expires on 31st August 2011. Offer only available at the Robins & Day dealerships below. Retail sales only. Applicable to Peugeot vehicles only. The quoted price covers the cost of the Summer Check and Air conditioning check and treatment only. Includes VAT at the prevailing rate. If the check identifies any additional work required, this will be advised and quoted for separately. No additional chargeable work will be undertaken without the express agreement of the customer. We reserve the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any time. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offer and information correct at time of publication.

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When was the last time you checked your car's brakes? Your car carries some valuable cargo, but brakes are something we tend to take for granted. Sometimes there are obvious symptoms such as a loss in braking performance, squealing or grinding noises or the car pulls to one side under braking but often parts wear gradually and the deterioration goes un-noticed.

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HI-TECH: Sophisticated modern cars like the multiple-award-winning 4x4 Land Rover Discovery, above left, and BMW 6-Series Convertible, above right, call for high levels of skill sets from the dealer's workshop technicians.

Keeping up with technology

INCREASINGLY complex vehicles and a shortage of skills in the jobs market has made the main dealer technician a hugely important part of a main dealer operation.

Sarah Sillars, executive chair of the trade's Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI), said: "The rate of technological change in the automotive industry is currently being driven by competition, consumer demands and regulation. This is creating a constant requirement for businesses to anticipate change and invest in training to help staff keep pace with developments."

The body has also developed a Consumer Code of Practice system to promote and maintain professional standards, while its sister organisation, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), has published a paper called Strengthening Skills for a Growing Economy, calling on Government to help feed the demand for the necessary skill sets and ease unemployment at the same time.

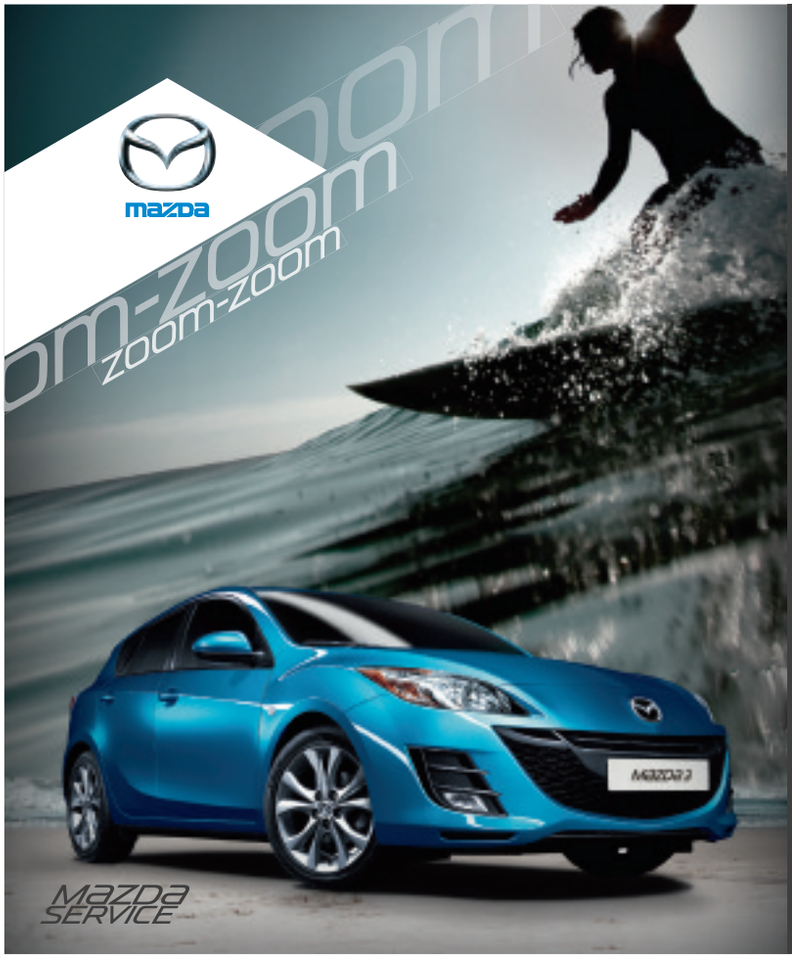
Most motor manufacturers are proactive in finding and promoting technicians within dealership networks – many will be sent to sites and plants run by the companies in the UK and abroad to test skills and attain qualifications.

Suzuki technicians 'Master' exams to become the finest

SUZUKI GB Master Technician Programme has reached its first 'century', having produced more than 100 graduates who are now putting their skills to work in dealer service centres across the country.

The Master Technician is at the pinnacle of a three-tier training and assessment package, the high standards of which have been officially recognised by the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) with its Quality Assured Award.

And there is no resting on laurels; passes remain valid only for a set period of time, which encourages technicians to maintain progress and familiarity with current and new models.



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Initially, it was a trick tried by premium brands, whose service costs were perceived as too pricey and taking advantage of an owner's natural reluctance to jeopardise the future value of the car by servicing outside the dealer network.

But it has been increasingly successful for mainstream brands as they battle a burgeoning independent and quick-fit sector, only too happy to siphon off the steady churn of servicing work.

One of the most high-profile pioneers of the fixed-price deal was Mini; the BMW-owned brand wanted to offer a sophisticated premium small car, but small-car-owners typically want low ownership costs.

The way around this was to buy the long-term loyalty of buyers by offering them a sharply-priced long-term servicing relationship.

In typical Mini marketing style, the package was also well put together under the label TLC – tender loving care.

The success was not lost on sister brand BMW, which also offers a fixed-price, long-term servicing deal for five years, from just £300.

Not to be outdone, Mercedes-Benz launched its Service Care plan for any new or Approved Used Mercedes-Benz or Smart car and, like some other brands, also makes it available to existing owners according to certain criteria.

TECHNICIAN AT WORK: Renault launched its keenly-priced Service Care plan earlier this year

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M-B customer services MD Simon Oldfield said: "It really is servicing made simple."

But mainstream marques are not to be outdone. For instance, Renault launched its bargain-price Service Plan this year from just £159 for three years/30,000 miles – whichever is reached sooner.

The all-inclusive price covers all scheduled servicing, labour and VAT charges and the policy can be transferred to different owners for free prior to expiry, potentially adding to the vehicle's resale value.

The blurb for such schemes uses the word 'policy' a lot, for that is virtually what they are: insurance policies for servicing and the vehicle warranty – a cost-effective but necessary part of the month-by-month cost of running a car.

PIONEER: Mini iniatiated the rise of fixed-price servicing with its TLC package

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RENAULT

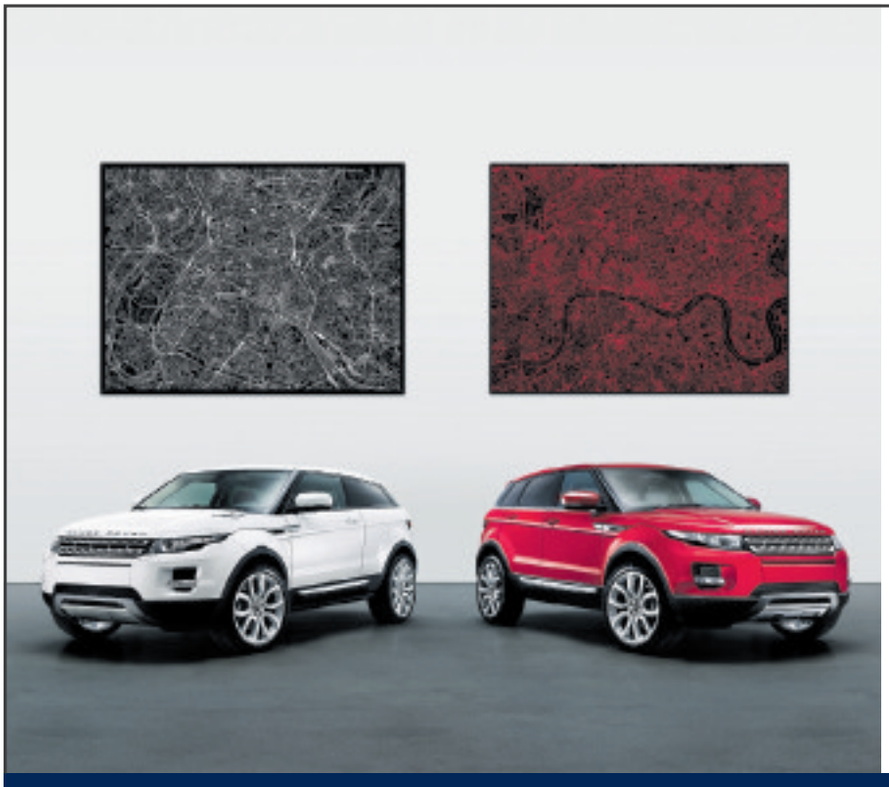
Servicing round-up

■ ITALIAN sister brands Fiat and Alfa Romeo have developed cost-effective service plans that take the worry out of running the car and allow the cost of ownership to be broken down into a simple monthly total for servicing, road tax and insurance. It makes it easier to enjoy modern-day icons like the retro 500C roll-top convertible, left, and Alfa Romeo Giulietta, right, the brilliant driver's car that also just happens to be a versatile family hatchback.

■ THERE are times when servicing is best left to main dealers: when the car features mould-breaking technology like the petrol-electric hybrid powertrains of the Lexus hybrid range, including the RX450h SUV pictured. Fortunately, the Japanese premium brand has it covered for would-be buyers of new or used examples, in the form of Pre-paid Service Plans – a version is available even for cars older than five years.

■ AS MOTORING and fuel costs have soared, Nissan has rolled out a flexible range of fixed-price servicing menus and service plans on popular models like the Qashqai crossover.

■ PEUGEOT has partnered a versatile range of models – like the award-winning 3008 crossover pictured here – with a flexible servicing plan package called Optiway. It means that owners of a 3008, for instance, can buy servicing cover for as little as £13.99 a month.



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RANGE ROVER EVOQUE

RANGE ROVER

Vehicles shown: Range Rover Evoque Coupé Prestige in Fuji White with optional 20 inch Sparkle Silver Alloy Wheels "Style 6", and Range Rover Evoque Prestige in Firenze Red with optional 20 inch Sparkle Silver Alloy Wheels "Style 6".
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FOOTBALL

Birch ready to quit Dover for League return

In an exclusive interview with **STEVE TERVET**, Adam Birchall expresses his desire for a second chance as a pro

Picture: ADY KERRY

FOCUSED: Adam Birchall says his record season in front of goal has proved he is ready for a return to League football

DOVER Athletic striker Adam Birchall has revealed he is desperate to cash in on his record-breaking season in front of goal and secure a return to the Football League this summer.

The 26-year-old smashed 45 goals in 49 appearances for the Whites last season, but says he would welcome a move away from Crabble in order to revive his dreams of a successful career in the professional game.

Having been valued at £250,000 by Dover chairman Jim Parmenter in April, Birchall admits the price tag could put off interested clubs.

However, he feels time is running out if he is to secure his dream ticket and believes he could leave the club for less during the close-season.

"I want to be a pro," he said. "I want to go back and give it another go. There are other players who have done it, the likes of Jermaine Beckford and Steve Morison, and those guys give non-league players like myself hope.

"The price is another thing. Realistically, it's not going to be that much, but I've got a gentleman's agreement that no matter how much it is, we'll talk about it. I get on with the chairman and the gaffer and they wouldn't stand in my way.

"It's almost a cliche, but if it doesn't happen now, it will never happen. I'm on the phone to my agent every day.

"I don't want it to sound like I'm turning my back on Dover, though, because I love them with all my heart. I've enjoyed playing for them and if I continue there, that's great."

Whites boss Martin Hayes has admitted his surprise at the lack of bids for Birchall so far this summer, something the striker feels is down to his last taste of Football League action.

In a two-year spell at Barnet, Birchall was played out of position and scored only 17 times in 97 appearances.

"I think I'm a victim of my past," he said. "When you leave a club like Arsenal and you go into League Two, the first two seasons are the most crucial. I played right midfield for two years and it's quite clear I'm not a right midfielder.

PEAK: Birchall was on target at Gillingham

"I was played there to cross the ball, not to score goals, I was an out-and-out right midfielder. When you're young, you just try to please the gaffer, you want to impress, but when you get older you tell people 'this is my style'."

Released by Arsenal in summer 2005, having spent 10 years in the club's youth system, Birchall went out on loan to Wycombe Wanderers and Mansfield Town, before making his move to Barnet permanent in January, 2007.

Birchall's frustrating Underhill career ended in July 2009 and he signed a two-year deal at Dover, extending that until the end of the 2012-13 season back in November.

Last season's extraordinary statistics saw Birchall named Conference South player of the season at the league AGM, as well as collecting the division's golden boot award. His closest challenger, Braintree's Sean Marks, finished 12 goals adrift.

He said: "To be named player of the year was really something for me, with how my career's gone. It was a big bash, so to get on stage and be recognised by everyone was the best thing I've had in football.

> **I want to be a pro, I want to give it another go. If it doesn't happen now, it never will.**
>
> ADAM BIRCHALL

"I played out the season in my head before it started. I've been working a lot on mental toughness, which is so important for a goal-scorer. Once I score a goal, I'm so hungry to score another. I stayed fit and healthy, I didn't drink any alcohol and I lived my life like when I was at Arsenal.

"I got to a point last season where I'd scored a lot of goals and people were talking about me. I wanted to do something to stand out, so they knew I was better than this level, and I made it my target to break the [Conference South] record this year.

"I managed to do well in the FA Cup against League Two sides, and I single-handedly destroyed Aldershot with two goals. If you watch that game, I was too good for them."

With Donovan Simmonds the only other striker at Dover, Birchall's exit would leave the club light up front.

Picture: HONDA RACING

LEADER: Sheppey's Shane Byrne has made a strong start to the BSB season

MOTORSPORT

Shakey looking to extend his BSB lead north of the border

A TRIP to Scotland offers Shane Byrne the chance to extend his lead at the top of the British Superbike Championship (BSB) this weekend.

Sitting 15 points clear of second-placed John Hopkins ahead of Sunday's two races at Knockhill, the Sheppey rider is looking to continue the fine form which brought him two podium finishes at Thruxton last month, including his third race win of the season.

Byrne, 34, remains on course for his third BSB title having made a bright start to life with HM Plant Honda.

"I quite like the track at Knockhill and they're always good, fun races," he said. "We only go north of the border once so I want to put on a good show for the fans. It would certainly be good to get another win or two and I'm sure the team will have everything ready to go so we can get out there for the races and try to keep the momentum going."

Beckenham's Tommy Hill lies fourth in the riders' championship, 66 points adrift of Byrne after challenging rides at both Croft and Thruxton.

The Swan Yamaha rider said: "I want to be on the podium at Knockhill as it's frustrating when you've been fast all weekend and then you're not up in the top-three in the race.

"We have been up there setting the pace in practice and qualifying, but it hasn't happened for us in the races."

Sunday's first race starts at 1.30pm.

TRANSFER TALK...

THE market shows no signs of slowing, with a succession of deals finalised across the county this week.

Maidstone United made their biggest move so far as Jay Saunders brought in four new players. **Graeme Andrews** arrived from **Welling United** on Thursday, days after the Stones announced the triple signing of **James Pinnock**, **Alex Waugh** and goalkeeper **Charlie Mitten**. The latter's arrival makes up for the loss of stopper Andy Walker, who has agreed to join **Cray Wanderers**.

Margate boss Chris Kinnear has also been busy. The disappointment of losing Pinnock was tempered by **Dean Pooley** joining from **Ebbsfleet United** on a two-year contract, while **Liam Friend** also looks set to join the Blues, once a fee is agreed with **Folkestone Invicta**.

Hythe boss Scott Porter declared his shopping was effectively over after **Ryan Rook** became the fourth player to sign. Former Whitstable boss Mark Lane has also joined as a goalkeeping coach.

Two deals completed after we went to press last week were at **Tonbridge Angels**, bringing **Jon Main** and **Anthony Storey** back to the club. Angels boss Tommy Warrilow also rubbished rumours he was interested in Horsham's Jamie Cade.

FOOTBALL

Kent League clubs crying foul in debate over registration loophole

By David Pritchard and Steve Tervet

A DISCREPANCY between the release date of player registration forms for the Ryman Leagues and the Kent League is causing complaints that the lower ranked teams are put at a disadvantage.

All players must sign forms, which are separate from any additional contracts with clubs, to make them eligible to feature in the various leagues.

The documents cover one season, so clubs must renew annually with each player to keep hold of them.

A problem arises when leagues distribute their forms at different times during the summer. Ryman League clubs received theirs in mid-May, while Kent League sides have only just taken delivery.

The ability to get a signature earlier has left some believing the Ryman League clubs are in a strong position to attract the best Kent League players.

Simon Halsey, manager at Herne Bay, said: "It's a horrible time, we all know that because you can't nail anything down.

Pictures: IGOR KUPCO

MIXED VIEWS: Herne Bay have found the summer an anxious time, while Scott Porter (right) has found a way to make the rules work for him

"They were a bit lucky with the Ryman League forms because they came out earlier.

"It's definitely a disadvantage because we couldn't get people signed up. While they've not signed there's always the chance they get their heads turned by another club."

Hythe Town boss Scott Porter has experienced both sides.

He has made four signings already as he prepares for Ryman Division One South, including bringing Ryan Rook in from Norton Sports this week, but was in Halsey's position a year ago as a Kent League manager.

He said: "It's a difficult one. To be honest last year we got players to sign the old forms and when the new ones came out got them to do it again, but I think all the leagues should come out together.

"I've always found if I get a player's word that's enough for me, and I've never had a bad situtation where they've gone elsewhere."

The issue was news to Denise Richmond, chairman of the Kent League, who did not believe there was a problem.

She said: "Our season doesn't officially end until May 31 and there's a close season in June so clubs aren't allowed to register players with us during that time. You could get them to agree to play and sign the form, but it's not logged with the league until July 1. If a player believes he's signed why would they go anywhere else?"

Elsewhere, the composition of the Kent League has been changed following a shake-up of the divisions nationwide.

Sporting Bengal have left to join the Essex Senior League, with Cray Valley PM taking their place.

GILLINGHAM

Hendon defends hard pre-season schedule

GILLINGHAM have chosen to line up an intensive pre-season fixture list to improve on last summer when the coaching staff felt the players were not ready for the start of the campaign.

The Gills kick-off their friendly programme on July 2 against the newly renamed Ashford United, the first of 13 games and 27 days ahead of the League Two season, which begins on August 6.

As it stands three of the games are denoted as 'Gillingham XI' fixtures, which will be made up of youth team players and triallists, but it remains a heavy schedule.

Ian Hendon, Gillingham's assistant manager, is happy with the situation and said the intention is to use pre-season to give players more pitch time than last summer.

He said: "We've got plenty of games in there, we're aware of that. It's alright running the players round the training ground, but players get their fitness in matches.

"Last season we felt we didn't give the players enough 90 minutes.

"We have to watch out because we had a lot of injuries last season.

"We're aware of that and we have to be careful we don't pick up soft tissue problems and strains. Pre-season is a massively important time for players to get their base fitness for the rest of the season, so we will give them 90 minutes in alternate games."

Picture: ADY KERRY

PACKED: Gills have 13 friendlies

GILLINGHAM

New ground adds fizz to Carling Cup draw

BRIGHTON'S new Amex Stadium is the venue for Gillingham after they were drawn away to the Championship club in the first round of the Carling Cup.

The game will provide an early test for Andy Hessenthaler's men, against a side which romped to the League One title last season and are expected to perform well in the Championship.

It could be an historic fixture, with Brighton moving into their new Amex Stadium this season. If the Seagulls are away on the opening day of the season the cup game will be the first competitive fixture at the ground.

Ian Hendon, Gills' assistant manager, feels it is a game to relish.

He said: "Hopefully it is the first game at their ground because it would be a great occasion and probably a sell-out. It's an old cliche but we'd be looking to spoil their party.

"It will be a tough game because they're a very good side and have made additions, but it's a cup game and you never know."

Gillingham's recent record in the competition is poor, winning just one game in the last five seasons. Last year they fell at the first hurdle, losing 4-1 at Norwich City.

The ties are due to be played the week beginning August 8.

The Gills' League Two fixtures were released on Friday. Log on to www.kentsport.co.uk for details.

Picture: ADY KERRY

RIVALS: Gills face Brighton away

Touring car legend Tim Harvey has teamed up with Archant KOS Media this season to bring you a weekly column as the class of 2011 do battle up and down the country. Harvey, who was brought up in Sevenoaks and schooled in Tonbridge, more recently raced in the Porsche Carrera Cup for Wrotham team Motorbase Performance. He shares his thoughts, as an ITV commentator, on the British Touring Car Championship, and discusses the series' big issues.

'Neal still holds the key to title'

MATT Neal and Gordon Shedden still lead the way at the top of the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) ahead of this weekend's trip to Croft, despite their incredible crash at Oulton Park two weeks ago.

When the Honda drivers slid into the gravel, it handed the initiative to Jason Plato but that's definitely been put to one side now.

These things happen in touring cars, whether it's team-mates or other drivers, but the only time it will possibly rankle is if it's relevant at the end of the season.

I know them both well and they are genuinely good friends. They're as good a pair of team-mates as you could possibly get.

I would still pick Neal as the favourite to win the championship from here. Apart from that massive mistake at Oulton Park, he's driving in a very confident, assured manner, he's got a good car underneath him and he knows how to win this championship. In the back of his mind he'll be trying to win this championship.

We've had some atrocious weather up at Croft, but it's a really good circuit. It's a long lap, you have difficult sections, you have fast corners, tight corners, and it requires a lot of the driver in terms of technique and discipline. The drivers like it because it's a challenge, it's fast, and there's plenty of opportunity for overtaking. If you make a mistake there, you get punished.

One big change since Oulton Park has seen Tom Onslow-Cole leave AmD Milltek, with Shaun Hollamby getting back in the VW Golf this weekend. I like Shaun, but I think he's making a mistake. He clearly can't take the car forward and if he wants to get results, to continue Onslow-Cole's work, he needs to put a proper touring car driver in there. There's obviously disappointment at Milltek that Onslow-Cole has left, but he gave them a lot of help during his time there.

On a personal note, I'll be racing again this weekend after agreeing a deal with TCR Racing to drive in the G55 class of the Ginetta GT Supercup. I missed being out on the track after quitting the Porsche Carrera Cup last month and I'm really looking forward to seeing what the car's like, because I won't have driven it before Friday morning.

A car's a car, though, my approach will be the same and I'll look to be as competitive as possible and enjoy the experience.

COUNTDOWN TO THE OPEN

25 DAYS: Next month's Open at Royal St George's in Sandwich will be the 25th consecutive appearance for Davis Love III, after the American successfully negotiated his way through International Final Qualifying in Texas last month

County's professionals line up to take a shot at the big time

By David Pritchard
david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

A POTENTIALLY career-defining appearance at The Open Championship next month is the prize for more than 50 Kent-based golfers in Regional Qualifying at The London Club on Monday.

The county's professionals know all that separates them from lining up alongside the likes of Tiger Woods and Luke Donald at Royal St George's are three good rounds.

Hundreds of hopefuls will compete over 18 holes at 16 courses across Britain and Ireland next week, before the field is cut for the final 36 holes later this month, which is to be held on four Kent courses. At stake are the last 12 spots for The Open itself, which starts at the Sandwich course on July 14.

The golfers will not know until Monday morning how many places from each Regional Qualifying tournament will be on offer to reach the final stage, but with a big field at the London Club it could be as many as the top 25.

Among the hopefuls is Chris Aked, professional at Royal Blackheath and part of Archant KOS Media's Open coverage. The 27-year-old has narrowly missed out on qualifying for the past two years, so knows what to expect.

"I think it does feel different, it's a bit of a marathon and you can't win anything on the day," he said.

"It's not an event where you can plod through for four days, you have 18 holes to go as low as you can. There's got to be an element of bravery and those who are bold will be rewarded. You have to be decisive, but you have to know when the opportunity presents itself – taking risks on the wrong hole could end your hopes almost instantly."

Pictures: ADY KERRY

HOPEFULS: Chris Aked (above) is looking to emulate Tom Sherreard's (left) 2008 efforts

Regional Qualifying is a route which has provided success for the county's professionals in the past. A year ago nine Kent-based players made it through to the final stage with Zane Scotland, representing Prince's, going on to claim a place at St Andrews. Chart Hills' Tom Sherreard trod the same path in 2008, making a name for himself as the second-highest amateur at Royal Birkdale by finishing joint 19th.

Sherreard, from Maidstone, is among the field at the London Club, along with veteran Jamie Spence (Nevill), a two-time winner on Tour.

Aked, who has twice visited the International Course this week in a bid to prepare for the tournament, admitted that for all the competitors the thought of reaching Royal St George's will be difficult to suppress.

He said: "It's not easy because ultimately there's a place in a major in your own backyard at the end of it. There's a long way still to go, but I think for certain if I'm coming down the last hole on Monday with a good card in my hand it's inevitable you start thinking about teeing up at Royal St George's next month."

Kent's hopefuls teeing off at The London Club

- **Ashford:** Thomas Muchmore, Paul Sherman
- **Canterbury:** Daniel Maude
- **Chatham Driving Range:** Alan Bateman
- **Chestfield:** Alex Dixon, David Ledingham, Simon Page
- **Chart Hills:** Jason Barnes, Connor Fletcher, Matthew Holman, Tom Sherreard
- **Darenth Valley:** Pete Stopford
- **Dartford:** Daniel Byrne, Michael Saunders
- **Hever Castle:** Michael Bush
- **Hythe Imperial:** Simon Wood
- **Knole Park:** Adam Tillman
- **Littlestone:** Charlie Wilson
- **Manston:** Max Brackley
- **Mid Kent:** Mark Foreman, Darren Timms
- **Nevill:** Jamie Spence
- **Nizels:** Greg Hazelby
- **Prince's:** Mark Belsham, Nicholas Brown, Francis McGuirk, Robert McGuirk, Anthony Tarchetti, Christopher Wainwright, Peter Wilson
- **Redlibbets:** Peter Appleyard, Paul Elvin, Matthew Gibson
- **Rochester & Cobham Park:** Jack Colegate, Alfie Plant
- **Royal Blackheath:** Christopher Aked, Jonathan Bell, Freddie Price
- **Royal Cinque Ports:** Andrew Reynolds
- **Sittingbourne:** Jonathon Hearn, Matthew Williams
- **Sundridge Park:** Liam Burns, Lewis Sturdy
- **St Augustines:** Grant Scott
- **Stonelees:** Michael Davenport
- **The London Club:** Matt Achurch, Daniel Casey, Stuart McCance, Josh Kenny, Sam Pigott, Jerome Titlow
- **Walmer & Kingsdown:** Richard Wallis
- **Westerham:** James Marshall
- **Westgate:** Ben Miles
- **Wildernesse:** Terry Tierney

GOLF

Hotel approval boosts European Tour return hopes

LUXURY: The new hotel complex will turn the London Club into a golf resort

THE prospect of European Tour events returning to the London Golf Club in the future grew stronger this week when plans to build a five-star hotel at the Kent course were given the go-ahead.

Almost 18 months after submitting the original proposals, the club near Ash has received confirmation from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. Work on the 130-bed luxury hotel is expected to begin this winter and take another 18 months to complete.

The move marks a major milestone for the ambitious club, which hosted the European Open in 2008 and 2009.

Despite attracting huge crowds, the lack of accommodation on site has since prevented the club from being a viable host and was a key reason why its 2015 Solheim Cup bid failed.

The European Tour have remained enthusiastic supporters of the club, after establishing a partnership in 2009.

Reacting to the news, George O'Grady, the tour's chief executive, was unambiguous about the venue's chances of hosting big tournaments again.

He said: "London Golf Club is set to position itself among the world's elite golf resorts and we plan to host major European Tour events in years to come."

The development, which attracted opposition from some quarters over its position on greenbelt land, will also include the world's first European Tour performance institute, aimed at giving players of all abilities sports science advice usually only available to golf professionals.

Austen Gravestock, the London Club's general manager, is delighted with the progress and is optimistic about bringing tour events back to the Kent club.

He said: "This development sets us apart from those others who are looking to host other events in this country.

"It's a very tough world out there to find major sponsors to underwrite those tournaments, but we're working very closely with our partners at the European Tour."

Apprentice inspires his master as Pakistan duo ignite Kent's season

By Glenn Pearson
glenn.pearson@archant.co.uk

IF the friendly rivalry between Wahab Riaz and compatriot Azhar Mahmood continues to produce the fireworks that lit up a dreary-looking Beckenham last week, Kent could yet re-live their Twenty20 glory days.

After a slow start to this year's Twenty20, which saw the Spitfires thoroughly thrashed by arguably the strongest two sides in the competition in Somerset and the Hampshire Royals, back-to-back wins against Glamorgan and Gloucestershire have put Kent in with a chance of progressing out of the South Group.

Much of that is down to the arrival of overseas pace ace Wahab Riaz. The 25-year-old has made a sensational start to his Kent career with a man-of-the-match performance at Cardiff, quickly followed by a hat-trick and 5-17 against Gloucestershire to record the club's best ever bowling figures in Twenty20 cricket.

The Pakistan left-arm quick bowler's performance only proved to inspire fellow countryman Mahmood, though, who showed in his thrilling unbeaten knock of 106 from just 57 balls, why he has been one of the most dangerous all-rounders in Twenty20 history.

Mahmood played an important part in suggesting Riaz to Kent when it became known the club were in the market for an overseas player. Having captained the current Pakistan international in the Indian Cricket League, Mahmood had clearly been impressed by the Lahore-born all-rounder.

"He is a quality bowler and he has done it for Pakistan and that is what we have been lacking at Kent," he said. "We have bowlers who have been injured throughout the season and we were struggling, but now we've got fit bowlers coming back and that's good for the team. He is a quality cricketer and that's why I mentioned his name when I was asked by the club. We have two left-arm seamers in Ashley Shaw and Adam Ball, so hopefully they can learn from him."

After seeing Riaz take a hat-trick and five wickets at Beckenham on Wednesday night, Mahmood was intent on showing his apprentice that he could still play – registering a career-best unbeaten century – only Kent's second ever hundred in Twenty20 history.

"We have to drive together to games and I have to listen to him going on about getting five wickets, so I said to him 'listen son, just let me bat and I will go and win the game for the team and we will be alright'. I was just pleased that I was able to do it," Mahmood said.

When Riaz departs for an 18-day stint in the Sri Lanka Premier League at the end of July, his presence will be sorely missed by the county, although he is due to return again afterwards before linking up with the Pakistan squad for their tour of Zimbabwe on August 20. For now, he is just looking to make the most of his time in county cricket.

"I have enjoyed my time so far and my team-mates have helped me feel part of the family and I feel as though I have been here for a long time already," Riaz said.

"Azhar has supported me a lot and now that I am at Kent he has helped me deal with the different conditions with his experience. It's good to be with him."

Pictures: ADY KERRY

DREAM TEAM: Overseas star Wahab Riaz (left) appears to be bringing out the best in Kent all-rounder Azhar Mahmood

BOXING

Defeat won't put me off track, says Dallas

TOM Dallas could fight for the Southern Area title before the end of the year despite his shattering knockout defeat to David Price in Liverpool last weekend.

The Chatham heavyweight was beaten for the first time in his professional career when Price, his promotional stablemate, put him on the canvas towards the end of the second round with a crunching right hand.

Dallas, 26, agreed to take the fight at less than a week's notice after Price's original opponent, John McDermott, pulled out with a throat infection. The manner of the defeat was comprehensive, but Dallas said he had no regrets about stepping in at such short notice.

"I made that choice and that's it," he said. "If it had gone well, I'd have been happy, so I don't regret taking the opportunity.

"If I'd had a bit more sparring, that might not have happened.

"It hasn't set me back. I was told by Sky and [promoter] Frank Maloney before the fight, 'we know you took the fight at four days' notice, so if you lose, it won't throw you off track.' I will have a title shot by the end of the year. Pricey's next fight is against McDermott, who's the Southern Area champion.

"My next fight will be in August and I'd like to fight John for the Southern Area title. It'd be a hard fight, because he's a good fighter, but I don't want to go back in with someone easy."

McDermott has faced Danny Williams and Tyson Fury for the British and English titles respectively within the last two years, but lost twice to each man.

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

BULLISH: Medway boxer Tom Dallas wants a shot at the Southern Area title

CRICKET

Picture: ADY KERRY

BACK: Alex Blake has recovered from injury

Returning duo set to boost side at Lord's

KENT will be be boosted by the return to fitness of two batsmen for their LV= County Championship game against Middlesex at Lord's, which starts today.

Alex Blake is available for selection after four weeks out with a hamstring strain suffered against the Lougborough students in May. The 22-year-old played in a second-team game last week and was also in contention for a place in Kent's back-to-back Twenty20 games at Hove on Friday, and at Canterbury last night.

While the left-hander's return will help increase competition in Kent's middle order, arguably the biggest boost is the return of Martin van Jaarsveld. The South African has missed the last two weeks with a finger injury sustained in training, but the 36-year-old was able to return to training with the rest of the squad last week. He will be in contention for a place at Lord's, while all-rounder Darren Stevens is also hopeful of being able to bowl after overcoming a shoulder injury. Matt Coles remains three weeks away from a return with a fractured metatarsal.

HOCKEY

Picture: ADY KERRY

OVERLOOKED: Canterbury's Natalie Seymour

Seymour misses out on England selection

NATALIE Seymour will be reduced to an interested spectator of the Women's Champions Trophy next week after being left out of the England squad.

The Canterbury ladies defender was not included in Danny Kerry's 18-strong squad for the tournament in the Netherlands, which starts next weekend.

It is the first time Seymour has missed out on a major tournament since becoming a regular fixture in the side after the Beijing Olympics in 2008. The 24-year-old has gone on to amass 54 international caps, helping England win bronze at last year's Champions Trophy.

Seymour's focus will now be on regaining her place in time for the EuroHockey Nations Championships in August before the domestic season begins again late September.

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